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Saipan Tribune

CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XIX, Issue No. 174

WEDNESDAY JULY 22, 2009

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OPINION METER

This week's poll:
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PANDEMIC ALERT STATUS PHASE 6

As of July 21, 2009

Phase 1: Viruses circulating among animals have yet to cause infections in humans.

Phase 2: An animal influenza virus is causing infection in humans, and is considered a potential pandemic threat.

Phase 3: An animal or human-animal influenza virus has caused sporadic cases or small clusters of disease in people, but has not resulted in human-to-human transmission sufficient to sustain community-level outbreaks.

Phase 4: Verified human-to-human transmission of an animal or human-animal influenza virus able to cause "community-level outbreaks."

Phase 5: A strong signal that a pandemic is imminent and that the time to finalize the organization, communication, and implementation of planned mitigation measures is short.

Phase 6: The pandemic phase, is an indication that a global pandemic is underway.

For more information about the H1N1 flu, contact DPH at 236-8797, Monday to Friday, from 8am to 5pm, 234-8950 during after hours, e-mail cnmiphoc@gmail.com, or visit www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/.

Source: CNMI Department of Public Health, World Health Organization

INSIDE

Pushing Back



President Barack Obama pushed back hard against Republican critics of his health care overhaul plan Monday, dismissing the "politics of the moment" marked by GOP comparisons of his efforts to socialism.

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12 schools get certification to accept foreign students. **PAGE 2**
Alien workers plan another big rally to welcome US House members. **PAGE 3**

Munson denies Villagomez, Santos couple motion for release

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
n_rodriguez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The U.S. District Court for the CNMI yesterday denied without prejudice the motion for release pending appeal filed separately by former Lt. Gov. Timothy P. Villagomez and his co-defendants in the Rydlyme case.

With a week left before sentencing,

Villagomez asked the federal court to continue his release while his appeal is pending in the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals.

His co-defendants, former Commerce Secretary James A. Santos and his wife Joaquina Santos, also filed separately a similar motion for release.



Munson

The court convicted the three on April 24 of defrauding the U.S. government in making unnecessary purchases of Rydlyme.

They were allowed to remain released on the conditions previously set by the court.

The sentencing is scheduled

In denying the motion, U.S. District Court Chief Judge Alex R. Munson cited a provision of the law which states "that the judicial officer shall order that a person who has been found guilty of an offense and sentenced to a term of imprisonment, and who has filed an appeal or a petition for a writ of certiorari, be detained, unless the judicial officer makes

See MUNSON on Page 4

on July 28, 2009.

PSS: Bus fleet in good shape for opening

Says only 3 of 19
Saipan school
buses are down

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

With the opening of public schools less than two months away, the Public School System assured parents that it will have the requisite number of school buses to meet their children's transportation needs.

PSS bus team leader Steve M. Pangelinan, for one, yesterday said that his department is performing all the necessary

See PSS on Page 4

Kilili commends NMC for reaffirming accreditation

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER



Sablan

curing a four-year accreditation from the

See KILILI on Page 4

CNMI delegate to the U.S. Congress Gregorio "Kilili" Sablan commended officials, students, and staff of the Northern Marianas College for their work in securing a four-year accreditation from the



MONETH G. DEPOSA

Public School System bus driver Frank Borja checks the tires of one of the 66-seat passenger buses that will be used in transporting students in the opening of classes in September.

DPH TO PEOPLE WITH FLU:

Stay home and drink clear fluids

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
n_rodriguez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Following two confirmed cases of swine

flu virus in the CNMI, the Department of Public Health issued a homecare guidance for patients to follow if they are sick for several days with fever and cough.

DPH recommended three steps for those afflicted—1. To follow the home care guide; 2. To take medications if prescribed; and 3. To seek emergency care.

Last Monday, DPH announced that a 16-year-old local male and a 26-year-old Japanese who recently visited Saipan

See STAY on Page 4



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YELLOW SUBMARINE

A small craft docks beside Pacific Subsea's Deepstar Submarine as Managaha Island is seen on the background. The tourist hotspot was recently highlighted under the Summer Trip 2009 category by travel agencies associated with Yahoo Travel.

MARK RABAGO

Local

12 schools get certification to accept foreign students

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A total of 12 schools have so far been issued certification by the Department of Commerce, formally allowing the institutions to enroll and accept foreign students to their educational programs and curriculum.

This was disclosed yesterday by acting Commerce Secretary Sixto Igisomar, who said the 12 schools translate to approximately 87 percent of the total

schools that sought certification to accept foreign enrollees.

Pursuant to the new regulation on foreign students which was enforced in April, Commerce took over the responsibility of handling the processing and certification approval from the Division of Immigration.

Igisomar said of the 12 certifications, most were granted one-year approval by the department.

"Most of them were approved for one year...though the department has the discretion to grant them two years certification. We also have some schools which were approved with conditions," he said.

Igisomar said Commerce has so far accommodated a little bit more than the number handled by the immigration in previous years.

"Immigration has a listing ... and based on that list, we certified 87 percent plus one. I think Commerce did a little bit more than [immigration]," he added.

The acting secretary for now declined to disclose the names of schools that recently received certification from Commerce.

Since April, Igisomar said the department has been adjusting and coping with the new system

for foreign students.

"I don't think we have much challenges right now [in terms of implementing the regulation] because we're able to cope with the handling," he said.

Challenges more on students, sponsors

Igisomar admitted that the new regulation has been a challenge on both foreign students and sponsors alike because of the higher fees.

"The challenge is more on students and the sponsors because basically, for them to be able to comply with the requirements, they need to fork out additional cash [for the health insurance and other fees]," the acting secretary said.

Saipan Tribune learned that because of "concerns" on students' health insurance, the department has enforced an alternative option for the students to pay a cheaper cost for their health insurance.

Igisomar said the department has approved foreign student bond in the absence of health insurance.

"We've gone to that route as an option for them. It's a

See 12 SCHOOLS on Page 4

Guma' Hustisia security features damaged because of maintenance costs and outages

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Many security features at the Judicial Complex or Guma' Hustisia in Susupe have been in disrepair or damaged either due to maintenance costs or outages.

According to Chief Justice Miguel S. Demapan and Superior Court Presiding Judge Robert C. Naraja, the security features,

which were designed to prevent attacks by criminal defendants, include

automatic locks, public announcement system, and security cameras.

Such security features have either fallen into disrepair due to maintenance costs or were severely damaged due to power surges during the outages, Demapan and Naraja said.

The two top local courts chiefs included the courthouse security problem in the Judiciary's Fiscal Year 2010 \$5.1 million budget request. The request was submitted on Thursday to the House Committee on Ways and Means.

"In the Commonwealth, and

in numerous other jurisdictions, courthouse security has become a great concern. Some criminal defendants are willing to resort to violent acts out of fear or desperation when they enter our doors," the two pointed out.

Demapan and Naraja cited a case in March 2005 in the Fulton County, Georgia courthouse in which a man on trial for rape overpowered his police escort,

took her gun, and proceeded to kill her, as well as the judge presiding over

his case, a court reporter, and a federal law enforcement officer.

At the time, the Georgia courthouse was reportedly fully staffed with armed security personnel.

In contrast, Demapan and Naraja said that, at the Judicial Complex the security force is not fully staffed.

"We bring criminals into our facility almost on a daily basis, many of them with violent records. With the number of court security we currently employ, we are extremely vulnerable to this sort of attempted escape," they said.



Demapan



Naraja

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Alien workers plan rally to welcome US House members

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Alien workers of different nationalities are planning to hold a big assembly to welcome members of the U.S. House Subcommittee on Insular Affairs, Oceans and Wildlife who are visiting the CNMI and Guam next month.

As this developed, the United Workers Movement-NMI is urging all alien workers with unpaid labor awards and those having immigration problems to attend a meeting on Saturday, July 25, at Kilili Beach in Susupe at 6pm. Dekada Movement counsel Stephen Woodruff is expected to attend the meeting and answer some questions.

United Workers Movement-NMI president Rabby Syed told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that the Unity Core Group will spearhead

the rally to welcome the House's delegates who are reportedly arriving on Saipan on Aug. 9.

The Unity Core Group led by now Rep. Tina Sablan held a Unity March in December 2007 in which thousands of people, mostly alien workers, held a peaceful march from Susupe to the American Memorial Park in Garapan to support federalization and protest against Public Law 15-108.

Guam Delegate Madeleine Z. Bordallo, who chairs the subcommittee, last May announced their plan to visit Guam and the CNMI. She said a ranking Republican member, Rep. Henry E. Brown of South Carolina, will be joining the trip. CNMI Delegate Gregorio Sablan is also a member of the subcommittee.

Syed said during the welcome

rally, different groups affiliated with the Unity Core Group will push for their cause of improved immigration status.

"We want to reach out to all sectors of the people. This is part of our grassroots program," Syed said.

He said aside from their group, expected to join the rally are Dekada Movement, Coalition of United Workers, PILCOWA-Pilipino Contract Workers Association, Human Dignity Movement, Chinese community, Korean community, Bangladesh community, Sri Lankan community, Nepalese community, Indian community, parents with special child, and parents with U.S. citizen children.

Syed said the tentative rally

schedule is Aug. 9 between 5pm to 8pm.

"The definite venue is not decided yet. It will be announced at a later date," Syed said.

In a joint statement, Coalition of United Workers president

Rene Reyes said the event will be a vehicle for the guest workers to personally convey and appeal their concern on improved immigration status to the visiting U.S. Congress delegates.

PILCOWA president Ronnie Doca said they are committed to always guide for the welfare of fellow guest workers.

"We deemed the upcoming assembly as a good timing because we can personally bring forth our concern to the delegates and we are optimistic that

they would come to us personally and talk to us during the assembly," Doca said.

Human Dignity Movement president Itos Feliciano appealed to all Filipino alien workers, the business community, immediate relatives of U.S. citizens, and FAS citizens to join the rally.

United Workers Movement adviser and PILCOWA board chairman Jun Concillado stated that having an improved immigration status "is our cause, our struggle, and our utmost dream that will eventually alleviate and change our lives."

"Americans are family loving citizens and we know that they don't allow families to be fragmented just because of uncertainties due to impending federalization program that will soon be implemented in the CNMI. We know that Americans are considerate and will recognize

our efforts and contribution to the CNMI," Concillado said.

Meanwhile, the United Workers Movement-NMI said this Saturday's meeting at Kilili Beach is intended for discussions on options on how to protect workers who have unpaid labor awards.

Syed said their group has consistently stood for contract workers' rights and that the meeting is a good opportunity to do something substantive for the guest workers.

He said litigation option will be discussed in order for the workers get their unpaid \$6.1 million labor awards.

He added that they want to get data on how many people who are still in the CNMI from among those hundreds who went to the federal ombudsman and provided copies of their unpaid labor awards.

Lawmaker files bill to fight illegal sale of alcoholic beverages

Senate Floor Leader Jude U. Hofschneider has filed a bill that seeks to enhance enforcement authority to the Department of Commerce, Alcohol and Tobacco Control Division pertaining to illegal sale, distribution and or consumption of alcoholic beverages.

Hofschneider said the Alcohol Beverage Control Act failed to provide enforcement powers to Commerce's Alcohol Beverage and Tobacco Control Division.

"This oversight has resulted in limited enforcement of the Act. The Legislature finds that without such enforcement powers the Alcohol Beverage and Tobacco Control Division is limited in its

ability to receive federal funding for alcohol prevention programs for minors," the Tinian senator stated in his legislation, Senate Bill No. 16-60.

Under the proposed measure, the Alcoholic Beverage Control Board, Commerce, Alcohol Beverage and Tobacco Control Division, the Department of Public Safety, and the Department of Public Health are given the enforcement powers.

The agencies are allowed to enter memorandums of understanding to coordinate their enforcement efforts and create a task force to educate minors about the hazards of alcoholic

beverages.

The bill will give each member of the board "the right at all times without notice and without legal process to visit and have immediate access to every part of the premises of every licensee for the purpose of making an examination and inspection of the alcoholic beverages, books and records, and manner of conducting the business."

The legislation will authorize the agencies to secure the voluntary assistance of minors to

conduct undercover investigations against persons or businesses engaged in selling or providing alcoholic products to persons under 21 years old with the written consent of such minor's parent or legal guardian.

No minors, however, may assist or be requested to so assist law enforcement agencies as a condition of probation or in connection with a minor's disposition or sentencing in juvenile delinquency proceedings.

(Ferdie de la Torre)

KKA eyes clean-up volunteers

The Kagman Komunitat Association is inviting the residents of Kagman to join the Office of Representative Rosemond B. Santos and the Taga Riders Motorcycle Association to vol-

unteer in the restoration of the Kagman II pavilions on Saturday, July 25, at 8am.

The pavilions of Kagman II will be painted and restored. Come and volunteer! (PR)

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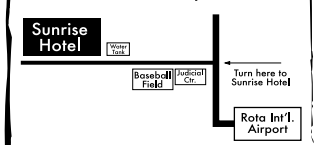
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Yumul insists on hiring part-time budget analyst

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_deltorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Rep. Ray N. Yumul, the chairman of the House Committee on Ways and Means, has insisted of hiring a budget analyst on part-time basis to assist the committee in preparing the Fiscal Year 2010 budget.

Yumul has informed Legislative Bureau Director Glenna P. Reyes that committee members in a meeting agreed for a need to hire a budget analyst.

Yumul said the committee came up with a decision after discussing Reyes' response to earlier request to get a budget analyst.

"The committee requires an analyst to interpret the gover-

nor's proposed budget, formulate personnel, financial, and summary work sheets, calculate mathematical equations and formulas, and explain the fiscal impact of all budget financial provisions," he said.

Last June 2, Yumul requested the Legislative Bureau to immediately hire a fiscal/budget analyst to assist the committee on the FY 2010 budget for at least three months or until a FY budget bill is signed into law.

In her response last June 30, Reyes said the budget's worksheets only requires proficiency in spreadsheet software programs such as Microsoft Excel.

"If such is the case, then Mr.

Eric Lister, the Bureau's Senior Legislative Assistant may be able to assist your committee in developing the worksheets," Reyes said.

Reyes said Senator Frisca T. Pangelinan, chairperson of the Senate Committee on Fiscal Affairs also informed her that her committee is able to carry out its duties and responsibilities without a fiscal/budget analyst provided by the Bureau.

The director said Pangelinan has offered to assist the House prepare the budget worksheets.

Reyes said the position of fiscal analyst remains unfilled as the position was generally un-

derutilized before.

In response to Reyes' letter, Yumul said Lister is a Senate legislative assistant with primary responsibilities to the Senate.

"The committee needs a person that will be able to prioritize the needs of the Committee on Ways and Means and spend numerous hours formulating worksheets, if required," Yumul said.

He said the budget analyst position is funded for in the Fiscal Year 2009 budget.

The lawmaker has underscored the need to immediately hire a part-time budget analyst as the committee is set to engage in budget matters starting this week.

Fiji admits tourists are heading elsewhere

SUVA, Fiji (Fiji Times)—There has been an increase in tourist arrivals but the industry admits that the growth has not reached levels enjoyed in previous peak seasons.

And on reports that Cook Islands and Samoa was crediting Fiji for their increase in visitor arrivals, Fiji Islands Hotel Association president Dixon Seeto said tactical marketing has to continue.

"There is a 20 per cent increase in room inventory but this is our peak season so it was expected. I admit that we are losing our market to competing destinations because it is very competitive now," Mr. Seeto said.

"We have to keep up with the tactical marketing which costs around \$100 million [US\$49.5 million] a year. This is nothing compared to the \$800 million [US\$395.6 million] it brings in on foreign exchange alone. So whenever there is a gap—when you're not in their face—you just drop off the travel supermarket shelf.

"The minute you stop, the traffic drops off."

He said the competition was on price points, where price and product was the key.

Seeto said continued State assistance in funding is needed and marketing should be planned on a long-term basis.

PSS

From Page 1

repairs, maintenance, and security on its fleet of school buses during the summer break.

Saipan Tribune learned that at present, PSS designated 19 buses to Saipan schools of which only 16 are currently operational, while two buses are assigned in Tinian and one for Rota schools.

Pangelinan said since last school year, two of Saipan's 66-seat passenger buses were down and were assigned to the auto shop for major repairs, while

another went down recently.

However, the bus team leader said PSS is awaiting the completion of repairs which is expected to be completed within the school year.

Pangelinan said PSS is anticipating seven new 66-seat passenger buses around December this year of which five will be assigned to Saipan and one each for Rota and Tinian.

The new fleet, funded by the Federal Transit Administration, was procured using the federal assistance provided to PSS for fiscal year 2009.

Once the new vehicles are delivered, Saipan will have a total

of 25 regular buses, while Tinian will have three and Rota, two.

"Everything has been maintained. We're cleaning and securing all our buses when schools are out on break," he said, adding that bus drivers and conductors also take advantage of the summer period in enhancing their capabilities by attending trainings and workshops intended for them.

Last school year 2008-2009, approximately 3,400 kids were transported by school buses in a daily basis. Enrollment last year was nearly 11,000 in the three islands.

With the anticipation of contin-

uous increase in enrollment every year, Pangelinan said some 30 to 35 buses are needed for Saipan schools, while Rota and Tinian may need four buses each.

"If we have more buses and equipment, a lot more students would be riding on our buses," he said, adding that PSS is prioritizing transportation of students in the elementary levels.

"Whatever we get from the federal government...is a great help for our students," Pangelinan added.

38 transportation personnel

When the school opens on Sept.

8, Pangelinan said all 38 transportation personnel will be attending to their jobs. These consist of 18 regular bus drivers, seven special education bus conductors, and seven special education bus drivers.

Pangelinan believes that the present number of employees will pretty much perform to ensure the smooth flow of opening of classes in two months.

The bus team leader said seven of the 38 employees in the department have recently been hired last March.

However, Pangelinan said a couple of bus drivers are

scheduled to do double and triple trips in the regular opening of schools.

But, he said, this situation is manageable because they are assigned to prioritize the elementary kids.

During school year 2007-2008, a bus rider's policy has been implemented by the PSS to ensure that PSS property is protected.

Pangelinan said since the "strict" implementation of the policy, where students and their parents are held liable to the damages to the property, bus employees have noted very minimal and minor cases.

STAY

From Page 1

were the first two confirmed cases of H1N1 in the CNMI.

Both have been examined at two local clinics for flu-like symptoms last week and their test were immediately sent to a laboratory in San Antonio, Texas for further evaluation.

DPH received confirmation that they were tested positive for the H1N1 virus.

Public Health Medical Director Richard Brostrom theorized that there must have been individuals carrying the

virus but have not reported to the hospital or the clinics because they just treated the flu as ordinary illness.

Neighboring island Guam has reported 16 confirmed cases with one death already. *Pacific Daily News* reported that public schools in Guam are well-prepared for the swine flu outbreak.

Here on Saipan, so far no sign of panic has been observed among various government offices and public establishments.

DPH said those infected with the flu must stay at home for seven days after the symptoms begin, or until the patient

is symptom free for 24 hours—whichever is longer.

It also recommend that those who are sick should drink clear fluids to keep themselves from being dehydrated.

Clear fluids include water, broth, sports drinks, and electrolyte beverages for infants.

Patients must also make sure to wash dishes with hot soapy water and throw away tissues and other disposable items used by the sick person in the trash. Then wash your hands after touching used tissues and similar waste.

DPH also recommends everyone in the household to wash

hands often with soap and water, especially after coughing or sneezing.

Alcohol-based hand cleaners are also effective.

DPH said patients must also avoid touching his/her eyes, nose, and mouth because germs spread in this way.

DPH said that if under medication, the patient must continue to cover his/her nose and mouth when coughing and wash hands often even when taking antiviral to prevent spreading influenza to others.

Products that contain aspirin (e.g. bismuth subsalicylate-Pep-to Bismol) should not be given

to children or teenagers 18 years old or younger.

DPH said children younger than four years of age should not be given over-the-counter cold medications without first speaking with a health care provider.

If a patient is given the Tamiflu, all of the antiviral medication should be taken as directed.

Children must immediately seek emergency care if he/she experiences fast breathing, bluish or gray skin color, not drinking enough fluids, severe or persistent vomiting, not waking up quickly or not interacting, and being so irritable that the child does not want to be held.

DPH said children as well as adults whose conditions get worse after initially recovering from flu-like symptoms must again see a health care provider.

Other warning signs that need urgent medical attention in adults include difficulty in

breathing or shortness of breath, pain or pressure in the chest or abdomen, sudden dizziness or confusion, and severe or persistent vomiting.

Latest health update from World Health Organization showed that the total reported confirmed cases of H1N1 worldwide was 94,512 with 429 deaths.

The total confirmed cases in the U.S. was 40,617 with 263 deaths.

WHO said that countries with community wide transmission of pandemic (H1N1) 2009 infection are no longer required to submit regular reports of individual laboratory confirmed cases to WHO, according to new surveillance guidance published on July 16.

But countries newly affected by the virus should report both first confirmed cases and weekly aggregated case numbers.

MUNSON

From Page 1

specific findings."

Munson said that defendants were found guilty of multiple offenses, however, they have not been sentenced and so ap-

peals have not been filed.

"Accordingly, the motions now before the court are premature and are denied without prejudice," Munson said in his one-page order.

Joaquina V. Santos filed the motion for release yesterday, through her legal counsel Ra-

mon K. Quichocho, stating that she joins the motions for release pending appeal filed earlier by Villagomez.

Her husband, James A. Santos, also filed a similar motion for release pending an appeal, through his attorney Victorino DLG. Torres.

It would be recalled that

Munson also denied on May 1 Villagomez's motion for a new trial on the grounds that he was deprived of his Sixth Amendment right to a fair trial by an impartial jury, a motion of judgment for acquittal notwithstanding the verdict, and a motion to disqualify Munson.

KILILI

From Page 1

Western Association of Schools and Colleges.

Sablan, via email, presented to NMC's Board of Regents a certificate of commendation for the reaffirmation of the college's accreditation with WASC's Accrediting Commission of Community and Junior Colleges.

The certificate of commendation was issued last July 9, along with a letter of congratulations to NMC board chair Charles V. Cepeda, by Sablan's office in

Washington, D.C.

"I wanted to write at this time to congratulate the Board of Regents, the faculty, staff, and students of NMC for the reaffirmation of NMC's accreditation..." Sablan told Cepeda in his correspondence.

It was last July 4, during the Liberation Day festivities, when NMC officials—along with the U.S. delegate—announced to the public that WASC reaffirmed NMC's accreditation.

NMC was placed on probation status in 2007 until it was downgraded by WASC to show cause status for failing to ad-

dress all the team's concerns and recommendations.

The status was extended to June this year due to two remaining recommendations that were not addressed by the college.

"The educational opportunities that NMC provides are critical to the continued educational, economic, political and social development of our islands," Sablan said.

He said NMC's existence would help many people on island who cannot afford to leave to attend post-secondary education abroad and elsewhere.

"The college provides them

with the opportunities they seek and deserve..." he said, describing the commendation as a small gesture of congratulations to all those who worked hard toward the college's reaffirmation.

Sablan said his office will continue to work collaboratively with the college in bringing assistance to improve the quality education it provides to students.

"You have my personal assurance that your congressional office will continue to work with you to improve the services NMC provides to its constituents," Sablan promised.

12 SCHOOLS

From Page 2

bit cheaper than the \$200 plus health premium per month for foreign students [if available]," he said.

Igisomar said some sponsors are also facing the challenge of meeting the financial requirement under the new regulation which states that they must demonstrate an annual income of at least \$20,000 or the sponsor must demonstrate an average bank balance of \$3,000 for the immediate preceding three months.

Under the same regulation, Commerce may also refuse to

allow a parent to be a sponsor of a child who is an alien applying to be a foreign student if the parent-sponsor fails to demonstrate income over the immediate preceding four months at a rate that will provide a gross annual income totaling 40 hours per week for 52 weeks at the prevailing minimum wage.

"It's really the financial capacity [of sponsors]. We're strict on those requirements to make sure that we protect the foreign students. Te CNMI is investing in these kids and we're giving them education...and they're here supporting our economic activity through their presence," the acting commerce secretary said.

'CUC board to be established after emergency declaration'

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Fitial administration yesterday vowed to follow the provisions of the law that mandates the establishment of a board of directors for the Commonwealth Utilities Corp., but only after the lifting of its state of emergency status.

Press secretary Charles Reyes Jr. disclosed this yesterday and added that legally, the administration has to follow the statute.

"After the state of emergency has passed, yes. Legally, we would have to follow the law once the state of emergency is no longer in effect," Reyes said.

However, he said that the administration needs to work with the Legislature to make sure the law is best for CUC and consumers in the long run in order to avoid—and not repeat—the disastrous mistakes of the past.

"We believe that in the past, the CUC board may have substantially contributed to the problems at CUC," he said, adding that past CUC board members were political appointees with limited management experience and little or no expertise in the utility business.

Virtually, he said, all that was required for a person to be on the CUC board was a gubernatorial appointment and Senate confirmation.

It can be recalled that due to "abuses" found against former members and officials of the Marianas Public Land Authority, the agency was abolished and the Department of Public Land was created under the executive's watch.

Reyes expressed worry on

the creation of a new board that may commit the same "abuses" and "mistakes" to the utility.

"CUC board members frequently traveled at great cost to the government. CUC board members selected an executive director based on political considerations and not necessarily exclusively based on merit. So, we had a situation where a political board selected a political director and the utility was operated on a system of patronage and politics rather than on sound and prudent economic management based on merit," Reyes said, adding that board members could and often micromanaged CUC affairs and CUC did not tighten up its collections efforts.

He said some CUC employees may have also been hired based on politics, patronage, or nepotism rather than merit or sound management principles.

"It was a disastrous situation that led us to the crisis," he added.

As past OPA audits showed, previous CUC boards did not hold their executive directors accountable, according to the press secretary.

"In one case, an executive director received \$75,000 in travel advances for trips he never took and kept the money. He was never prosecuted until the statute of limitations ran out after seven years," he said, adding that under past CUC board management, CUC did not achieve full cost recovery, did not adjust rates to recover costs, and did not maintain adequate cash reserves or emergency funds to provide a com-

fortable margin of safety.

Fitial declared a state of emergency for CUC and hired Tony Muna and other professionals to fix the problems—to rehabilitate power plants and to ensure

full cost recovery.

Fitial also wiped out millions of dollars in CUC-Commonwealth Development Authority debt through an equity conversion agreement,

amounting to \$45.5 million

"We have to be very careful about re-instituting the political board system after we have fully stabilized CUC and after the state of emergency has

passed," he added.

It was in October 2008 that a bill proposing privatization of CUC and the creation of a board of directors was enacted into law.



Reyes

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Live Fire Releases set on FDM

The Emergency Management Office, in conjunction with U.S. Naval Forces Marianas (N3) Guam, would like to inform the general public that the U.S. Military Unit would be conducting Live Fire Releases (96 EBS) on the island of Farallon De Mendenilla. The schedule date and time is as follows:

■ July 18 to 22 2009 from 3am to 3am: USNS Pathfinder Equipment Acceptance Test;

The general location of this activity will be on the island of Farallon De Mendenilla Training Area (R7201) on a ten (10) nautical mile radius on all quadrants.

Due to the danger imposed by this activity, Gov. Benigno R. Fitial is strongly advising the general public especially fishermen, commercial pilots, and marine tour operators to stay away from this area during the time and date indicated.

The cooperation and understanding of the general public is greatly appreciated.

Should you have any ques-

tions, do not hesitate to contact the Emergency Management Office, Operations Section at telephone numbers 322-9528 and 322-9529, VHF Marine CHNL 16, and HF Single Side Band Radio on 5.205.0. (EMO)

Important info about NMC Fall semester

Important information about the Northern Marianas College's Fall 2009 Semester has been posted to the college's website at www.nmcnet.edu. The Fall 2009 Class Schedule, placement test dates, registration dates, and other information can be accessed now. Log on to NMC's website or call Manny Castro at 234-5498 ext. 1528 for more details. (NMC)

WESPAC schedules meetings

Fishermen and other members of the public are invited to participate in the following meetings of the Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council, which manages offshore fisheries in Hawaii, American Samoa, Guam, the Northern Mariana

Islands and other U.S. Pacific insular areas.

■ The Scientific and Statistical Committee will convene 8:30am to 5pm, July 20 to 22, 2009.

■ The Council Standing Committee will meet from 1pm to 5pm, July 22.

■ The full Council will meet at 6:30pm to 9:30pm, July 22; 8:30am to 6pm, July 23; 8:30am to 5:30pm, July 24; and 8:30am to 5pm, July 25.

All meetings will be held at the King Kamehameha Kona Beach Hotel, 75-5660 Palani Road, Kailua-Kona, Hawaii. Public comment periods are available during the meetings. Written testimonies are also accepted.

Major agenda items include fishing regulations in the new Pacific marine national monuments, Hancock Seamount groundfish fishery moratorium, main Hawaiian Islands bottom-fish total allowable catch, catch shares, annual catch limits for species with known maximum sustainable yields, Hawaii offshore non-longline pelagic fisheries, longline tuna quota management and tuna quota monitoring

For more information or agendas, visit www.wpcouncil.org or contact Council staff at info.wpcouncil@noaa.gov or phone (808) 522-8220; in Guam, John Calvo, (671) 649-3150 or 688-6400; in the CNMI, Jack Ogumoro, (670) 322-9830 or 287-9482. (PR)

Red Cross health and safety training

The American Red Cross announces the following health and safety training in July 2009:

■ Adult CPR - July 25, 2009, Saturday, from 8am to 12pm

■ First Aid - July 25, 2009, Saturday, from 1pm to 5pm

■ Infant & Child CPR—Aug. 15, 2009, Saturday, from 8am to 1pm

The training fee for adult CPR and first aid is \$30 per person/per course and the training fee for the infant and child CPR is \$35 per person. A participant's booklet is required. Participant's booklet is \$5 each and is good for all three courses.

For more information, call the NMI Chapter Office at 234-3459. (PR)

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Alien worker sues Labor for denying transfer

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
n_rodriguez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A guest worker recently filed a complaint in the Superior Court contesting the decision of the Department of Labor to deny her a relief to transfer to another company.

Rowena D. Java, through her counsel Stephen C. Woodruff, asked the court to grant her transfer relief and other such relief the court may seem proper.

Woodruff wants the court to vacate labor secretary Gil San Nicolas' decision and requested for a judicial review citing several grounds.

Woodruff said that the purported order of the secretary of Labor was not lawfully made or issued, that it was an abuse of discretion and not in accordance with the applicable law, contrary to constitutional right and privilege, fell short of the plaintiff's statutory rights, not supported by substantial evidence, and was made without observance of procedures mandated by applicable laws.

Woodruff said that Java had worked productively in the CNMI for over 10 years, contributing to the economy and general welfare of the community. She has four U.S. citizen children who were born on

Saipan.

Woodruff also requested the court to set a briefing schedule that would process her appeal and set aside Labor's decision as not lawfully issued and hence, null and void without any force or effect.

According to Java's five-page complaint, she was one of the victims of Elenita E. Camacho, who held an immediate relative entry permit and had victimized numerous foreign nationals in various schemes including marriage fraud, procurement of counterfeit documents from the Philippines, credit card fraud, and filing bankruptcy to avoid a lawsuit filed by

some of the victims.

Woodruff noted that Camacho had filed the CNMI.

Based on the complaint, the director of Labor last year opened a compliance agency case to look into Camacho's activities.

In March 2009, the Labor office, granted transfer to nine foreign nationals and denied the transfer of two others, including Java.

Java submitted an appeal to Labor on April 6, attaching a letter from a prospective employer.

Accordingly, the employer wanted to hire her immediately.

Java was working under a

temporary work authorization at the time of the issuance of an administrative order on March 10.

The authorization was expiring March 16.

Woodruff told the court that despite Java's right to appeal, the administrative order imposed the sanction of revoking any status she held and prohibited her from any renewal or extension of her temporary work authorization.

Woodruff also noted in the complaint that on June 11, a Secretary's Order on Appeal was released but she said that another person and not San Ni-

colas signed the order.

Woodruff said that the document was actually signed by deputy secretary of Labor Jacinta M. Kaipat.

Woodruff said that the position of Deputy Secretary of Labor does not exist in Commonwealth Law and no appointment of someone to such a position can be lawfully made.

"The plaintiff said that the function of deciding appeals to the Secretary of Labor is non-delegable," Woodruff said.

He said that the June 11 order is not a valid act of the secretary of Labor because it was issued arbitrarily and capriciously.

Convicted sex offender arrested for assaulting wife, guest worker

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
n_rodriguez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Police arrested a man who allegedly assaulted his wife and a taxi driver in two separate incidents less than half an hour apart at dawn yesterday.

Acting public information officer PO2 Jason T. Tarkong

said the suspect, Anthony Mendiola Camacho Jr., was arrested for assault with a dangerous weapon in the first incident and assault and battery domestic violence in the second incident.

Tarkong said that at about 12:23am police responded to an assault and battery incident

in Capitol Hill.

The victim, a 37-year-old male guest worker from Bangladesh, told officer Kelly Camacho that he was driving a company taxi by Coffee Care going up to Capitol Hill when he noticed a sedan directly behind him and its headlights on high beam.

The victim said the suspect suddenly passed him and stopped several feet in front of the victim's van, forcing the victim to drive off the highway to avoid a collision.

The suspect approached the victim with a machete on his left hand and confronted the victim, who was seated on the

driver's seat.

The suspect allegedly punched the victim's face.

The victim said he would call the police but the suspect shouted to him to "go ahead" and went to his car and drove away.

The victim was able to write the license plate number of the

suspect's car and immediately called the police.

The police report made no mention of what caused the suspect to assault the victim.

The responding police officer radioed DPS Central and gave the license plate number, ACD-634, and an all points bulletin was dispatched to police officers out in the field.

The vehicle, a Blue 2010 Mazda 3, was registered to the suspect's father Antonio M. Camacho.

The vehicle was located a few minutes later after the suspect was arrested for assaulting his common-law wife.

The same police officer responded to a domestic violence incident at about 12:45am in Tanapag Village.

The officer met with the 34-year-old female victim, who told police that her husband arrived home intoxicated.

The victim told police that she asked why he arrived home late and that led to an argument.

The suspect allegedly pulled his wife's hair then slapped her several times.

The victim also told police that this type of abuse had happened in the past, usually when her husband is under the influence of alcohol.

The wife said that while she was calling police, her husband fled in his father's car.

It was then that the police officer realized that this was the same vehicle the suspect used in an earlier case he was investigating.

The police officer then recognized the suspect as a convicted sex offender. He radioed DPS Central and all police officers on the field were alerted.

Less than an hour later, at about 1:15am, officer Nobert Mettao came across the suspect's vehicle at the intersection of Isa Drive and Chalan Pale Arnold Road.

Mettao pulled over the vehicle and arrested the suspect.

Police found inside the suspect's car a machete, which was taken as evidence, and the car was impounded.

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Hofschneider pushes casino dev't on Tinian

Senator Jude Hofschneider has vowed to give full support to Tinian casinos, which according to him is a development that will surely improve the economy not only of Tinian but of CNMI in general.

"I am supporting them. And I hope that they will push through with their development because

the casinos will be very beneficial to the CNMI," Hofschneider told *Saipan Tribune*.

He said casino owners also construct golf courses, condominiums, and resorts.

The senator said Neo Gold Wings Paradise, which re-



Hofschneider

cently broke ground for its \$1 billion casino hotel and resort project, is very aggressive with its planned development.

"We are very excited because it is very difficult to find an investment of that magnitude," Hosch-

neider said.

So far, only Tinian Dynasty Hotel and Casino is operational on Tinian. Other interested companies include Bridge Investment Group and Marianas Resort Development Corp.

Hofschneider said Bridge Investment is waiting for developments regarding visa waivers for Russian and

Chinese tourists.

"The most active right now in terms of movement of investment is the Neo Gold Wings Paradise," he said.

The Tinian senator said the Neo Gold officials came to the CNMI recently to solidify their contract with the government. **(Ferdie de la Torre)**

Marianas Eye provides tips for viewing solar eclipse

Today at approximately 10:55am until 1:30pm, one of the longest solar eclipses of the century can be viewed.

The best time to witness the eclipse is at 12:13pm at which time the moon will block the sun for approximately six minutes and 38 seconds. However, blindness can occur if a solar eclipse is not viewed carefully.

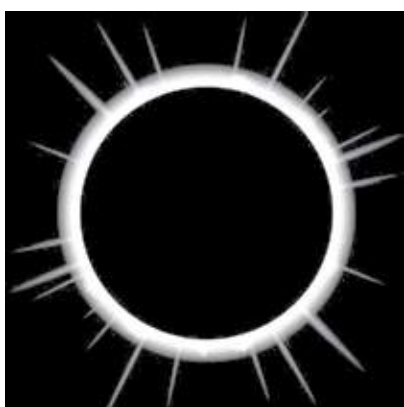
A total solar eclipse is one of the most spectacular astronomical events. It occurs when the moon passes between the sun and the earth. For a short period of time, the sun is completely blocked out by the moon, when viewed from the earth. Day briefly turns into night, causing temperatures to drop, birds begin to roost and many animals become confused.

This spectacular event will be witnessed here in the CNMI, and while we are not in the direct band of total blackout or the umbrella shadow, the area where a total solar eclipse can be seen on Earth, is usually less than 100 kilometers in diameter, we will be able to view a partial eclipse.

In order to view this event safely, Marianas Eye Institute has put together this helpful list of does and don'ts.

DON'Ts

Never look at the sun directly—doing so can damage your eyes. You should also never attempt to look at the sun in the partial eclipse phase through unprotected eyes or homemade filtering mechanisms. A partial eclipse, as will be visible here on Wednesday, is particularly dangerous, because even though the light from the sun appears dimmer, the dangerous rays of the sun can still cause permanent damage to the eyes. The best way to observe the sun is by projecting the image.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

One of the longest solar eclipses of the century can be viewed today.

Don't use these as solar filters.

- Sunglasses
- Photographic neutral density filters
- Smoked glass
- Polarizing filters
- Compact discs
- Floppy disk media
- Black color film
- Any black and white film negatives bearing images

DO: The Pinhole Projection Method

Here is one way to project the sun's image:

1. Get two pieces of cardboard (flaps from a box, backs of paper tablets).
2. With a pin or pencil point, poke a small hole in the center of one piece (no bigger than the pin or pencil point).
3. Take one piece in each hand.
4. Stand with your back to the sun.
5. In one hand, hold the piece with the pinhole; place the other piece (the

screen) behind it.

6. The sunlight will pass through the pinhole and form an image on the screen.

7. Adjust the distance between the two pieces to focus and change the size of the image.

Do not look through the pinhole at the sun.

Welders' Goggles

Welders' goggles or the filters for welder's goggles with a rating of 14 or higher are safe to use for looking directly at the sun. They are also relatively inexpensive.

Warning: Do not attempt to use these filters behind a pair of binoculars or telescope (that is, between your eyes and the binoculars or telescope). The magnifying optics of these devices will focus the full power of the Sun onto the welder's filter, which could crack and shatter from the intense heat after only a few minutes.

The safest way to view the eclipse is with the pinhole method, and welder's goggles from different parts of the world do not always have a high level of quality control.

The pinhole method allows the safest viewing of Wednesday's partial eclipse.

Dr. David Khorram, the ophthalmologist at Marianas Eye Institute recalled that during the last major partial solar eclipse, students from one of the schools had looked directly at the eclipse. "Although none of the children ended up having any significant damage, it was a scary time for the children and their families waiting to see if the damage would be permanent. We look forward to this spectacular event, and hope that everyone, especially children, will use the safest techniques to view the eclipse." **(PR)**



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

THRICE THE CHARM

Self-styled Coke fanatic Marites Castillo, right, won for the third consecutive week in Coca-Cola's Red Hot Summer Promo. Rusty Loyola, left, operations manager of Coca-Cola Beverage Company (Micronesia), Inc. awarded Coca-Cola cooler bags with six-pack Coca-Cola products, Coke Dome Tent and Coke Inflatable Chair to Jojie Montenejo, another winner, and Castillo at the Transpacific Business Center conference room July 15. Also in photo is Marites' daughter, Betty Matson.

SHIPPING SCHEDULE



Outbound from Asia	Voyage No.	ETD Jakarta	ETD Bangkok	ETD P. Kelang	ETD Melbourne	ETD Singapore	ETD Hochiminh	ETD Busan	ETD Kobe	ETD Shanghai	ETD Auckland	ETD Manila	ETD Hongkong	ETD Kaoshiung	ETD Naha
MELL SENOKO	024E	7/4 Sat	7/2 Thu	7/2 Thu	6/30 Tue	6/27 Sat	7/10 Fri	7/6 Mon	7/5 Sun	6/28 Sun	6/28 Sun	7/6 Mon	7/10 Fri	7/12 Sun	7/14 Tue
MELL SENTOSA	023E	7/11 Sat	7/9 Thu	7/9 Thu	7/7 Tue	7/4 Sat	7/17 Fri	7/13 Mon	7/12 Sun	7/5 Sun	7/5 Sun	7/13 Mon	7/17 Fri	7/19 Sun	7/21 Tue
MELL SEMBAWANG	016E	7/18 Sat	7/16 Thu	7/16 Thu	7/14 Tue	7/11 Sat	7/24 Fri	7/20 Mon	7/19 Sun	7/12 Sun	7/12 Sun	7/20 Mon	7/24 Fri	7/26 Sun	7/28 Tue
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MELL SENTOSA	024E	8/1 Sat	7/30 Thu	7/30 Thu	7/28 Tue	7/25 Sat	8/7 Fri	8/3 Mon	8/2 Sun	7/26 Sun	7/26 Sun	8/3 Mon	8/7 Fri	8/9 Sun	8/11 Tue
MELL SEMBAWANG	017E	8/8 Sat	8/6 Thu	8/6 Thu	8/4 Tue	8/1 Sat	8/14 Fri	8/10 Mon	8/9 Sun	8/2 Sun	8/2 Sun	8/10 Mon	8/14 Fri	8/16 Sun	8/18 Tue

Inbound from Asia	Voyage No.	ETA Guam	ETA Saipan	ETA Yap	ETA Koror	ETA GenSan	ETA Davao	ETA Cebu	ETA Hongkong	ETA Kaoshiung	ETA Busan	ETA Yokohama	ETA Manila	ETA Singapore
MELL SENOKO	024E	7/18 Sat	7/19 Sun	7/19 Sun	SKIP	7/23 Thu	7/24 Fri	7/26 Sun	7/28 Tue	7/31 Fri	8/1 Sat	8/6 Thu	8/25 Tue	8/9 Sun
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MELL SEMBAWANG	016E	8/1 Sat	8/2 Sun	8/2 Sun	SKIP	8/6 Thu	8/7 Fri	8/9 Sun	8/11 Tue	8/14 Fri	8/15 Sat	8/20 Thu	9/8 Tue	8/23 Sun
MELL SENOKO	025E	8/8 Sat	8/9 Sun	8/9 Sun	8/11 Tue	8/13 Thu	8/14 Fri	8/16 Sun	8/18 Tue	8/21 Fri	8/22 Sat	8/27 Thu	9/15 Tue	8/30 Sun
MELL SENTOSA	024E	8/15 Sat	8/16 Sun	8/16 Sun	SKIP	8/20 Thu	8/21 Fri	8/23 Sun	8/25 Tue	8/28 Fri	8/29 Sat	9/3 Thu	9/22 Tue	9/6 Sun
MELL SEMBAWANG	017E	8/22 Sat	8/23 Sun	8/23 Sun	8/25 Tue	8/27 Thu	8/28 Fri	8/30 Sun	9/1 Tue	9/4 Fri	9/5 Sat	9/10 Thu	9/29 Tue	9/13 Sun

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NMC names new dean for academic programs and services

Northern Marianas College today announced the appointment of Cynthia "Cyndi" Ilisari Deleon Guerrero, an alumnae of the college, as the new dean of the Academic Programs and Services Division. Deleon Guerrero had previously been serving as the director of the college's School of Education.

"We are extremely pleased to welcome Cyndi to the College's management team," said NMC president Dr. Carmen Fernandez. "She brings a wealth of knowledge and experience that will have a significant and direct impact on the quality of education and the services we provide to our students."

Deleon Guerrero is also the first individual with Carolinian ancestry to serve as acCollege dean, a top-level position at NMC.

In her new role, Deleon Guer-

rero will oversee six academic departments and ensure that the quality of education provided at NMC sufficiently meets students' academic and professional needs. She will also be charged with leading department chairs and faculty and staff members in the unit's program and curriculum evaluation, improvement, and development efforts. Further, she will help establish instructional priorities, develop multi-year instructional plans, and have a key role in strategic academic planning for the institution.

"I'm excited to have the opportunity to serve as the next dean of Academic Programs and Services," said Deleon Guerrero. "I hope to build on the

strong momentum established by the College community and look forward to working with all faculty, staff, and students in advancing the mission of the college."

As director of the School of Education, Deleon Guerrero led all program review and outcomes assessment activities, and ensured that the school, which confers bachelor degrees in elementary education, complied with accreditation standards from both the Accrediting Commission of Community and Junior Colleges and the Accrediting Commission for Senior Colleges and Universities.

"Cyndi has gained the College community's respect for her mentorship and her guidance,

especially in the area of program review and assessment," added Fernandez. "I am very confident that the Academic Programs and Services Division will thrive under her leadership."

Prior to serving as director of the School of Education, Deleon Guerrero also worked as the director of the Office of Admissions and Records, where she managed the college's comprehensive admissions operations, recruitment activities, and registration system. She had also served as vice principal, counselor, and teacher for the CNMI Public School System.

Deleon Guerrero earned her associate and bachelor's degree from the Northern Marianas College. She received her master's degree in education from Framingham State College in 2008. (NMC)



Deleon Guerrero

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

July 22, 1999

'Charge students for books, buses'

Two members of the Board of Education are pressing the Public School System to consider charging students for bus ride and use of books as a way of raising revenues for the agency. "We cannot continue complaining about this budget crisis. We have to raise our own money by being creative," board member Anthony Pellegrino said during the BOE meeting Tuesday. Pellegrino noted that several other government agencies are implementing their own fund-raising measures to meet their financial needs. The Commonwealth Ports Authority, for example, has started charging a \$1 parking fee at the airport. The Superior Court has stepped up its collection of fines from traffic violators.

Another takeover hearing in Sept. 16

After the scheduled hearing next month by the U.S. Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, Northern Marianas leaders will face its House counterpart for another oversight set in September 16 in Washington D.C. House Resources Committee chair Rep. Don Young (R-Alaska) said the forthcoming hearing will tackle enforcement of federal laws and the use of federal funds in the Commonwealth. The congressional panel, which has jurisdiction over insular areas, has already invited Juan N. Babauta, CNMI's resident representative to Washington, to testify during the inquiry, which comes one month after the August 3 hearing by US senators.

July 22, 2002

'Heinz offered to step down'

The proposed hike in the user's fee has become a divisive force in the House of Representatives, with House Speaker Heinz S. Hofschneider reportedly offering to step down as Speaker during Friday's leadership meeting and with the leadership vigorously opposing the offer. This development came even as about 150 local workers from the different garment manufacturers in Saipan converged in front of the Legislature building to rally against the 1.3 percent user's fee hike, which they said would lead to massive job layoffs and the potential closure of several factories. At the same time, Rep. Herman T. Palacios said that, with the exception of Rep. Joseph Deleon Guerrero, all Precinct I representatives are now opposed to the proposed user fee hike.

Ralliers descend on Legislature to protest against user fee hike

More than 150 local employees of garment manufacturers on Saipan rallied in front of the Legislature building Friday and called on lawmakers not to pass the proposed 1.3 percent increase on user's fee. Appealing to lawmakers to protect their families and ensure their continued employment, the ralliers peacefully marched to the Legislature building around 8:30am and met with about five lawmakers, who promised to review the measure thoroughly. The lawmakers were House Vice Speaker Manny Tenorio, House Floor Leader Jesus T. Attao, Sen. Ramon Guerrero, Reps. Pedro Castro and Herman Palacios. The five told the ralliers of what had transpired during a previous day meeting of the Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation.

July 22, 2003

DPH mum on new AIDS cases

The Department of Public Health has remained silent on the reported two new cases of AIDS this year in the CNMI. Reached repeatedly yesterday for any details on the two cases, as reported by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, DPH acting secretary Pete Untalan declined to be interviewed citing "a very busy" schedule. Mary Muna, DPH HIV prevention program coordinator, said she could not give any statement on the issue without the permission of Untalan. Muna and Untalan met yesterday to discuss the CDC report, according to staff, but when asked about it later, Muna said "we only discussed about my (off-island) trip."

Final rebate checks out Friday

Good news for those still awaiting their rebate checks. The Treasury Division will be running this Friday the last batch of checks representing the final payout of rebates for Fiscal Year 2001, which means those who haven't gotten their rebate checks yet should get them Monday or Tuesday next week. Better yet, come middle of August, the Treasury Division will start issuing out the rebate and refund checks for Fiscal Year 2002. Public information officer Peter Callaghan confirmed the good news yesterday, saying this Friday's rebate release will amount to approximately \$2 million. The payout represents the last payment on the estimated \$25 million rebates/refunds for calendar year 2001.



BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

Reuben Valenzuela celebrated his birthday last Monday, July 20, 2009. You're the kind of friend that only heaven could have sent. We love you so much! God bless you always. Greetings come from your friends.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

BELATED HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Belated happy 4th birthday to Iver Jude Vallo Dimaun from Mommy, Daddy, Izea, and Tita Jhie.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



SPECIAL DAY

Happy birthday to Carleen Desebel and may many more of your beautiful smiles come. May God bless you and lots of love from Pat C. and Tony, Jenny and Clyde, and Becky and Marvin.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Jonathan T. Teregeyo who has been promoted in the U.S. Marine Corps as a sergeant. Your family is proud of you.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



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NOTICE OF SPECIAL MEETING

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 11, the Commonwealth Ports Authority hereby gives notice that a Special Meeting of the Board of Directors will be held on Thursday, July 23, 2009, at 10:00 a.m. in the CPA Conference Room, Second Floor, Captain George F. Fleming Building at the Port of Saipan, Saipan.

The following items are on the agenda for the above-referenced meeting:

AGENDA

- I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS
 1. Call to Order
 2. Roll Call
 3. Adoption of Agenda
 4. Adoption of Minutes (June 12, 2009)
- II. SPECIAL AGENDA ITEMS
 1. Fiscal Year 2010 Insurance Renewal
 2. Personnel Matters
 3. Preliminary overview of CPA Finance
- III. PUBLIC COMMENT
- IV. EXECUTIVE SESSION
- V. ADJOURNMENT

All interested persons are welcome to attend and to submit written or oral testimony on the above agenda items.

EFRAIN F. CAMACHO, P.E.
Executive Director

July 21, 2009

BEFORE THE COMMONWEALTH PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

ENERGY POLICY REQUIREMENTS
OF THE AMERICAN RECOVERY AND
REINVESTMENT ACT OF 2009

DOCKET 09-5

NOTICE OF INQUIRY AND REQUEST FOR COMMENTS

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 [ARRA] includes in section 410(a) substantial energy grants for activities and initiatives, including energy efficiency and conservation. The Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands [CNMI] is eligible to apply for these federal grants.

As a condition for accessing CNMI's share of these grants, the Governor by his March 10, 2009 letter to U.S. Department of Energy Secretary Steven Chu, provided assurance that the Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission [Commission] has been requested to consider whether additional actions are necessary to promote energy efficiency consistent with ARRA and with the Commission's duty to maintain just and reasonable rates. The Commission received this request on June 23, 2009. By order dated June 26, 2009, the Commission directed that a regulatory proceeding be commenced to examine the need to provide different or additional financial incentives to encourage the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation's [CUC] electric customers to use energy more efficiently without raising the cost of conservation and increasing the cost to ratepayers of measurable, verifiable efficiency savings.

The purpose of this Request for Comments is to solicit input, viewpoints and information from the public, CUC, policy makers and the Commission's regulatory consultant on the question of whether current incentives/rate structures are adequate to promote energy efficiency in the CNMI and to identify other issues, which should be considered in this inquiry. This inquiry is being conducted pursuant to Rule 23 of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure.

CUC and the Commission's regulatory consultant have been directed to file comments in response to this notice of inquiry on or before August 7, 2009. These comments will be available for public inspection at the Saipan Chamber of Commerce's office at the Family Building, Garapan Street, Garapan and in the Public Utilities section of its website: www.saipanchamber.com. The Commission requests that public comments be filed in writing on or before August 21, 2009 with the Commission c/o the Saipan Chamber of Commerce, either at its office or by email to kyle.calabrese@gmail.com.

The Commission will conduct a public workshop at 5:00 p.m. on August 28, 2009 at the Senate Chamber in the Jesus P. Mafnas Memorial Building on Capitol Hill to consider the comments, which have been received in response to this notice and the report of its hearing examiner. The public is welcome to attend this workshop. All interested persons that file comments or request to be placed on the service list in this docket will receive Commission documents issued throughout this proceeding. Questions regarding this proceeding should be directed to Commissioner Calabrese at 670-233-7150.

July 14, 2009.

Pacific

Kiribati boat disaster worries islanders abroad



MILLENNIUM ISLAND

This image provided by NASA Tuesday July 14, 2009 shows Millennium Island photographed by an Expedition 20 crew member on the International Space Station July 1, 2009. Millennium Island is located at the southern end of the Line Islands in the South Pacific Ocean. This uninhabited island is part of the Republic of Kiribati, an island nation comprised of 32 atolls (including Millennium Island) and one raised coral island. Millennium Island is formed from a number of smaller islets built on coral reefs. The coral reefs grew around a now-submerged volcanic peak, leaving a ring of coral around an inner lagoon. The islands above the waterline are composed primarily of limestone rock and sand derived from the reefs. At a maximum height of approximately 6 m above sea level, Millennium Island has been identified as being at great risk from sea level rise by the United Nations. The islets of Millennium Island are readily visible in this photograph as irregular green vegetated areas surrounding the inner lagoon. The shallow lagoon waters are a lighter blue than the deeper surrounding ocean water; tan linear "fingers" within the lagoon are the tops of corals. The island has been recommended as both a World Heritage site and Biosphere Reserve.

SUVA, Fiji (Fiji Times)—Kiribati delegates to the Pacific Youth Festival in Suva have had sleepless nights fearing the worst when they return home.

Last Monday, a vessel travelling from Kiribati's capital, Tarawa, to neighbouring Maiana, a village atoll, capsized with 51 people onboard.

Among those lost at sea are four babies.

Fiji Navy's search and rescue unit has been coordinating the search and liaising with Kiribati

police and marine department.

Youth delegate Kobaua Kai-taua, 23, looks forward to going home but fears the news awaiting him on Tarawa may not be good.

He said most of the 20-member delegation were from Tarawa and could not contact home to find out if any of their family were on the double-hulled canoe, which was turned over by a freak wave.

"We found out about the

accident on Tuesday, the day after the accident," he said. "We are very saddened at the news. We don't know if any of our family members were onboard and if they were, are they still alive."

A Kiribati national spoke of the miraculous discovery of a two-year-old boy floating in a bucket in the middle of the ocean by fishermen.

"Thank God for that," the woman said. "It's a miracle."

The Royal New Zealand Air Force called off its search yesterday after scouring the seas around Kiribati for days.

"Earlier in the week, the crew from a RNZAF C-130 Hercules aircraft, visiting the area as part of a diplomatic mission, was able to respond and conducted an initial search," said squadron leader Kavae Tamariki.

The RNZAF said it understood that five people swam ashore and raised the alarm.

Bainimarama promises Constitution before 2014 elections

SUVA, Fiji (Fijilive)—Fiji will have a modern day constitution before elections in 2014, says Prime Minister Commodore Voreqe Bainimarama.

Bainimarama said this will be the focus of his Government after it strives to build the country's economy and infrastructure within the next three years.

"For the first three years beginning now, my Government shall focus on improving the socio-economic and infrastructure conditions throughout the country," he said while addressing delegates at the 35th Annual Gathering and 8th Asia-Pacific Institute for Broadcasting Development (AIBD) Conference in Nadi yesterday.

He said this will include encouraging Fiji's private sector and the media to partner with his Government in initiatives that will be pro-growth and pro-poor.

Last month, Bainimarama delivered his road-map to democracy, which includes work on a new constitution to begin in September 2012

He said the new constitution must include provisions that "will entrench common and equal citizenry, it must not have ethnic based voting; the voting age shall be 18; and it must have systems that hold elected governments accountable with more checks and balances".

He said that public consultations on the new document will include discussion on the "size of the new Parliament, the appropriateness of a bi-cameral system, the term of office of a government and systems of checks and balances".

Bainimarama has assured that he will return the country to democratic rule by September 2014, 8 years after he overthrew the Qarase-led Government in a bloodless coup.



Bainimarama

Tonga court overturns king's defamation

NUKUALOFA, Tonga (Matangi Tonga)—Tonga's Court of Appeal in passing judgements on Friday, July 10 upheld two appeals related to defamation—in one case overturning a conviction for defamation against the publisher of the Kele'a.

The Court of Appeal sat with Justices J Burchett, J Salmon and J Moore on July 3.

The first appeal was between Siosua Po'oi Pohiva, the Publisher of the weekly Kele'a newspaper v the Crown.

Siosua Po'oi Pohiva appealed against a judgement that had been made by Justice Shuster, convicting him of defaming His Majesty the King.

In their judgement the Court of Appeal ruled that Justice Shuster was in error in doing so and the appeal was allowed.

The defamation case was about a letter to the editor published in the Kele'a on December 6, 2007. The letter was claimed to be highly critical of the King.

Pohiva stated in a recorded interview said that he did not know about the published letter of December 6, 2006 until after he returned to Tonga from the USA in February, 2007.

The Appeal Court Judge-ment found that, "In our opinion it is not possible to conclude that Pohiva had requisite criminal intention in order to satisfy the mens rea element of the offence. The Crown accepted that it could not point to any evidence that would justify a finding that he did. Pohiva should have been acquitted."

The Court of Appeal stated that the prosecution must prove the accused intended to speak, write, print or otherwise put into visible form any matter damaging the reputation of HM the King before conviction.

Fiji detains masons over magic rituals

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (AP)—Police in Fiji detained 14 members of a freemasons lodge for 24 hours after local villagers complained that they were practicing sorcery, newspapers reported Thursday.

Eight Australians and a New Zealander were among those jailed after their Tuesday night meeting was raided by police.

The Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade confirmed 14 people, including eight Australians, were detained for convening a Masonic meeting without the right permit.

The New Zealand Herald quoted an unnamed police spokesman who said officers acted on reports from villagers of "strange goings-on" at the lodge.

The lodge secretary showed police a permit for the meeting

but was told it was not relevant and the group was taken to the jailhouse and locked in cells, the Herald reported.

Australia's Canberra Times reported that Prime Minister Frank Bainimarama ordered their release but investigations were still continuing.

Emergency regulations imposed by Fiji's military re-

Surfboard sells for record \$40,000

HONOLULU (AP)—A surfboard more than a half-century old has sold for a record \$40,000.

Overall, the Hawaiian Islands Vintage Surf Auction on Sunday brought in more than \$767,000 from 379 bidders from around the world for surfboards and memorabilia.

The most expensive item was an 11-foot (3.3-meter) Bob Simmons foam sandwich

game allow police to detain people for up to 48 hours without charge.

The New Zealand newspaper said police in Lautoka seized Masonic paraphernalia including wands, compasses and a skull.

Freemasonry is a fraternal organization with a membership of 5 million worldwide.

board built around 1950 that sold for \$40,000 to an Australian bidder.

The same bidder also walked away with the second-highest item, a 1955 Matt Kivlin 10-foot balsa board for \$39,000.

The highest-priced non-surfboard item was a family album of legendary surfer Duke Kahanamoku. It sold for \$14,000 to a Hawaii bidder.



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands Coastal Resources Management

Caller Box 10007, 2nd Floor, Morgen Building
San Jose, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel:(670)664-8300 • Fax:(670)664-8315
Website: www.crm.gov.mp



REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE

TO: ALL BOAT OWNERS

Boats are being left in the lagoon after daylight and this action poses a **DANGER** to the marine safety of nighttime boaters and fishermen.

CRMO hereby informs all BOAT OWNERS that effective August 01, 2009, any boat or other marine vessel that is left unattended in the lagoon after daylight, particularly in navigable waters, is required to have anchor lights or white all-around lights while anchoring at night.

CRMO requests BOAT OWNERS to not leave or anchor their boat(s) in the water after daylight without an anchor light or white all-around lights. CRM Enforcement will enforce this request and if a vessel is found anchoring after daylight without proper lighting, the vessel will be ordered removed from the water.

Should you need assistance in regard to this CRMO request, please do not hesitate to contact our office at: 664-8300

Thank you.

/s/ JOHN B. JOYNER, Ph.D.
Director

Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XIX, Issue No. 175Published daily at 2/F JP Centre,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950Lynn A. Knight PUBLISHER
Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
Mark Rabago ASSISTANT EDITOR

MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Russia, disgraced over assassinations

In Russia, a surefire way to curtail one's life expectancy is to tell truths and pose questions that are inconvenient to the Kremlin and its loyalists. That is particularly so for journalists, human rights activists and others who dare to criticize the supremely brutal regime in the southern Russian region of Chechnya, which, with the Kremlin's full backing, has prosecuted a blood-soaked anti-insurgency campaign.

The latest truth-teller to be assassinated, Natalya Estemirova, who was kidnapped, shot to death and dumped on a roadside Wednesday, was also among the bravest. Estemirova, a 50-year-old single mother of a teenage daughter, defied the Chechen strongman, Ramzan Kadyrov, by relentlessly documenting a campaign of torture, abductions, intimidation and extrajudicial executions carried out by security forces under his control. And despite repeated threats to her life—including, according to her associates, explicit ones made to her face by Kadyrov himself—Estemirova pursued her work while living in the Chechen capital, Grozny.

Appallingly, Russian leaders, particularly Prime Minister Vladimir Putin, have barely managed to stifle their yawns at some such murders in the past, including killings that took place on the streets of Moscow. The fact that Western governments took notice of that indifference no doubt prompted a quick condemnation from Dmitry Medvedev, the Russian president, in response to Estemirova's death. But the fact remains that dozens of contract-style murders of those who unearth ugly truths have gone unsolved, and there's little reason to hope that Russia's sham justice system will do any better in resolving this latest outrage.

The list of those whose killers remain unknown or at large is long and varied, and testifies to Russia's culture of lawlessness and impunity. It includes, among many others:

■ Stanislav Markelov, a human rights lawyer who campaigned for Chechen victims of Moscow's policies, gunned down in January a few blocks from the Kremlin, along with a young journalist who tried to intervene.

■ Anna Politkovskaya, the superb Russian journalist whose work illuminated horrific abuses in Chechnya, assassinated in her Moscow apartment building in 2006.

■ Sergei Yushenkov, a prominent member of Russia's parliament and fierce critic of the Kremlin, shot dead in front of his Moscow home in 2003.

■ Paul Klebnikov, American editor of the Russian-language edition of Forbes magazine who did trailblazing investigations of Moscow's super-wealthy oligarchs, assassinated in 2004 on a Moscow street.

Those murders and dozens of others, as well as the state's evident inability or unwillingness to solve them, subvert Russia's demands to be included in the ranks of civilized nations. For the country, these crimes are a disgrace; for the leadership in the Kremlin, they are an indictment.

(c) 2009, The Washington Post

The SPACE PROGRAM, Then and Now...



Apollo crews saw a small world after all

“We came all this way to the moon, and yet the most significant thing we’re seeing is our own home planet ...” Forty years after the first moonwalk, NASA has chosen to lead its anniversary coverage with Apollo 8 astronaut Bill Anders’ comment about the Earth. That fact alone shows how much the focus has changed since the first Space Age, when it seemed that everyone on Earth was looking outward into space. Ironically, what made the astronauts different was that they alone could look back home.

Even though it was there all the time (for the moon does not rotate), it wasn’t easy to see the distant Earth from the lunar surface. The astronauts’ visors gave them only a limited field of vision, and in any case they were kept busy for almost every minute—the mission plans did not allow for sightseeing. “In the three days of exploration,” recalled Buzz Aldrin, the second man to walk on the moon, “there were a couple of times when I actually looked up to see the Earth—and it was a difficult maneuver in that bulky suit.” Neil Armstrong, was kept awake at Tranquillity Base by the Earth shining down through the onboard telescope “like a big blue eyeball”; it was so small that he could blot it out with his thumb. He was asked later if this made him feel big. “No,” he replied, “it made me feel really, really small.” Even on the moon, Armstrong identified with the Earth.

The very remoteness of Earth evoked powerful—often spiritual—feelings within the lunar travelers. As Michael Collins, the third member of the Apollo 11 crew, explained, while it was one thing to see the Earth from orbit, it was quite different “to actually be 100,000 miles out, to look out four windows and find nothing but black infinity, to finally locate the blue-and-white golf ball in the fifth window ...” He gazed on the jewel-like Earth with awe and wonderment, “suddenly aware of how its uniqueness is stamped in every atom of my body. Suddenly I knew what a tiny, fragile thing Earth is.”

Something similar had happened on Apollo 8, which the previous Christmas had carried out a pathfinder mission, flying around the moon without actually landing. Frank Borman, the commander, recalled his first sight of Earth from lunar orbit. “It was the most beautiful, heart-catching sight of my life, one that sent a torrent of nostalgia, of sheer homesickness, surging through me. It was the only thing in space that had any color to it.” A startling thought occurred to him: “This must be what God sees.”

The crew of Apollo 8, the first to orbit the moon, broadcast a prayer on the journey out and went on to read the creation story from the Book of Genesis in their Christmas broadcast. All this had an important influence on the Apollo 11 mission, when Aldrin performed his own Bible reading from space (“What is man, that thou art mindful of him?”). But more than this, in the quiet hours at Tranquillity Base between touchdown and moonwalk, Aldrin performed a one-man Holy Communion inside the lunar module, using a small silver chalice, a tiny vial of red wine and a wafer. Armstrong didn’t

By ROBERT POOLE

Special to the Los Angeles Times

Poole, a historian at the University of Cumbria, is the author of “Earthrise: How Man First Saw the Earth.”



join in. “I just let him do his own thing,” he explained.

Astronauts drilled in technical procedures found it difficult to communicate their experiences on the moon and gained a reputation for dull language. Only later, in memoirs and interviews, did the full force of the experience emerge.

James Irwin of Apollo 15 wrote: “As we flew into space, we had a new sense of ourselves, of the Earth, and of the nearness of God.” He founded an evangelical organization called High Flight. Having discovered the 4-billion-year-old “genesis rock” on the moon, he went off to Mount Ararat to look for Noah’s Ark. Edgar Mitchell of Apollo 14 had his own transforming experience and established an institute dedicated to expanding human consciousness.

Gene Cernan, who went to the moon twice, had his religious faith confirmed by the experience of seeing Earth as “the most beautiful star in the heavens.” “I have seen the endlessness of space and time with my own eyes,” he explained. (When she was 5, Cernan’s granddaughter realized that her grandfather was an astronaut. “I didn’t know you went to heaven,” she said.)

Alfred Worden of Apollo 15 became a poet, writing of Earth as “a distant memory seen in an instant of repose.” Al Bean, who accidentally burned out the camera on Apollo 12 by pointing it at the sun, became a painter. “My dream now is to create a body of paintings that tell the story of Apollo,” he explained. Stuart Roosa of Apollo 14 told his son how he would look at the Earth gleaming “like a jewel in the sky,” reflect on how it held everything he knew, and then marvel at how he could blot it out just by holding up his hand.

Above all, the astronauts were struck with how humanity needed to overcome its differences and care for its fragile planet. After seeing the Earth from afar, wrote Collins, “I determined in that moment that I would do all I could to let people know what a wonderful home we have—before it is too late.” Perhaps the true legacy of Apollo is the environmental movement.

We have all seen the pictures, but in those distant Apollo years, 24 travelers saw the real thing: The whole Earth, hanging in space, visibly alive in a deserted cosmos. Almost without thinking about it, this band of test pilots achieved the dream of the philosophers of old: to behold the entire world.

Dick Gordon of Apollo 12 was often asked what we learned from going to the moon. His reply was simple: “We discovered the Earth.”

EDITORIAL POLICY

The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

The universe is perfect

First of a two-part series

The only way to take control of your life, raise your standard of living and move beyond merely surviving is to create your own unique product or service that you offer to increasing numbers of people in exchange for the things of value that you desire. This simple formula applies to countries as well as people. A self-sufficient economy has its own products or services of value to export to the world. Similarly, a self-sufficient individual has something of value to exchange in the global marketplace. That thing of value is based on your natural talent, skill, or interest—in other words, your passion!

If I had to sum up for the sake of a single column what the most important thing I've learned in life is it would be this: that the universe is perfect.

In search of a belief system

Yes, the universe is perfect. That little line has become my mantra, my new awareness, my belief system.

The purpose of having such a belief system—any belief system, for that matter—is to help you navigate and negotiate effectively through life. The correlation between having the correct belief system and happiness and success in life is really simple. People with a valid belief system, which is in synch with reality, make better decisions. Life is really simple, provided you have the “correct” belief system.

Not all belief systems are created equal, however. Some belief systems are empowering, some belief systems are limiting. Some are just so utterly out of synch and out of touch with reality that they lead to utter disappointment and failure.

Let me give you a silly, but true example. Many, many years ago, I had a friend who, after years of observation, came to the conclusion that success and happiness in life was correlated to hair length. And, to hear her tell it, she seemed to make a good case that the girls who married well, the actresses who won Oscars, the businesswomen who excelled, all had long hair, while the girls with short hair fared poorly. She was convinced of this, and it was part of her belief system. While aspects of it may in fact be valid, I hope we can agree that such a belief system is essentially flawed.

Sure, you may argue that getting her hair to what she perceives to be the right length may indeed make her more self-confident, which in turn may make her more successful but, by and large, having this belief system—which is out of synch with reality—has her focus on developing the wrong attributes, limits her belief in her potential if she has short hair, and has her expecting that if she gets long hair, that everything will magically change, that people will treat her differently, and she will be happy and successful.

The world is full of people with many beliefs like this that determine how they act (eg. *dishonesty is necessary for wealth, short people cannot be as successful as tall people, the illegal aliens are to blame, illness is random and unpredictable, the FDA is looking out for my best interests, etc. I had to throw that one in!*) At some point, however, people's beliefs come face to face with the truth and reality of a situation and those beliefs will either pass the test or fail. You can only get so far based on the

length of your hair.

People with the “wrong” belief system focus on the wrong issues, are limited to certain degrees of freedom and potential, and expect things to unfold in a certain way. If their belief systems are not based on reality, then their focus will be misguided, their potential will be limited, and their expectations won't be met—which, is the single cause of unhappiness in this life. So, are you ready for a belief system that works?

The case of perfection

“Perfect? The universe? How can that be?” you may ask. “With wars, famine, death, disease and all manner of apparent imperfection, how can you say that the universe is perfect?”

Here's what I mean. When I say that the universe is perfect, I mean that things and events in this universe proceed by divine order, according to (some kind of) plan, is governed by certain knowable laws, and therefore unfolds predictably. I mean that the universe is perfect in its adherence to the basic laws of reality, and that nothing imperfect—i.e. outside of the plan—can ever exist.

Knowing and acting on the certainty that the universe is perfect helps you deal with and overcome adversity faster. It helps you seek out and identify the order in life's events. It helps you focus on the right response to the things that happen to you. It empowers you, and it can be applied to every single area of your life where there is a need for action, reaction, response or understanding.

For example, this simple belief can help you in matters of health. I recently asked a friend who was interested in eating healthy which would be better for her body, vegetables grown locally and eaten fresh, or frozen vegetables from the supermarket. She had to think about her answer for a while because she believed that the two were pretty much equivalent.

But what if she knew that the natural universe was perfect? That anything that was NOT here at the beginning is harmful in some way? Convenient, perhaps. Efficient, for sure. Necessary? Arguable. But more nutritious? Unlikely. Even damaging? Probably.

If you know that the universe is perfect, then you know that man cannot improve on nature. Nature is perfect.

But the perfection of the universe also means something more philosophical. It goes beyond simply how you deal with nature and the physical world. It means you believe beyond the shadow of a doubt that everything that happens to you in life is actually helping you. The universe is perfect, so all things work towards my growth and good. This belief helps you interpret life's ups and downs NOT as the universe's attempts to keep you back, but as lessons to be learned, opportunities being offered, and the universe's attempts to support and move you towards your goals and ideals.

We live in a perfect, creative and supportive universe, and everything that happens to you is moving you towards the realization of your goals and the fulfillment of your purpose by showing you how the universe works. It's up to you to find and heed the lesson, identify the opportunity and respond accordingly.

Computer crash? *How can this be a good thing?*

House burned down? *What hidden opportunity is being presented?*

Relationship ended? *What new person am I making room for?*

And here's the somewhat paradoxical kicker: You will only find

and an infinite number of other factors all play a part in economic downturns, but such complexities are all but totally forgotten when some people talk and assign blame to something like this. Well, easy may be—well—easy, but easy is not all that often right.

Hasty generalizations. “Today's students aren't as smart as students of past generations.” Talk about generalizing, this one has to be the mother of all nonsensical generalizations. Students of today have more distractions—read more things to be distracted by—than any other generation in the history of man. Think TV, the internet, iPods, sports, and a host of other such distractatory mediums and you get the idea. One mantra we would perhaps all do well to live by, however, might include the following: “read more!”

The either-or fallacy. “We can either vote Republican or Democrat.” Wrong! We can vote independent, or choose from a list of other parties, or vote a mix of Republican or Democrat, or not vote at all. Well you get the idea. Again, things are rarely as simple as the simple minded would like to assume were the case.

False analogies. Miller Lite is yellow and it is alcoholic, Bud Light is yellow and it is alcoholic, Mountain Dew is yellow; therefore, Mountain Dew must also be alcoholic! Clearly a case of a mis-comparison of a material nature. But, people do it all the time, that is miscompare things.

THE SAIPANPRENEUR PROJECT

Creating economic success for the CNMI

By WALT F.J. GOODRIDGE

Special to the Saipan Tribune



Send article suggestions, entrepreneur nominations and feedback about this article to walt@passionprofit.com.

the good, the opportunity, the new person and the silver lining in life's events if you believe it is there! And it will be there to the degree of your belief.

Such a belief system has the unique property of not only empowering you through every adversity, but also of being its own insurance policy! In other words, even if there is no benefit to your house burning down, your belief that there is a benefit keeps you focused on a positive response to the situation, empowers you to overcome the challenge, and has you expecting the good that will come next in your life. You win either way!

Isn't that a much better response than: “*Why do bad things always happen to me? Life doesn't want me to succeed. Life is unfair. This is terrible, woe is me.*”

Yes, everything hinges on this: that the universe is perfect. Your happiness, your fulfillment raising a family, your job satisfaction, your success in business and your growth as a human being all hinge on the acceptance of this single, simple, yet profound statement. The universe is perfect. Once you believe this, everything else falls into place.

So, starting today, practice repeating the mantra as soon as you can when faced with any situation in your life. Repeat after me: “The universe is perfect!” “The universe is perfect!” “The Universe is perfect!”

■ ■ ■

Next time, Part II: The universe is perfect: Laying the foundation for the belief

Note: Fans and followers of the book, *Chicken Feathers and Garlic Skin: Diary of a Chinese Garment Factory Girl on Saipan* may now find copies at Bookseller Bookstore in the Joe-Ten Plaza in Susupe or on Amazon.com. Hurry, there's a limited supply!

Note: Ever wanted to direct your friends and family to a set of websites that said good things about Saipan? Do what I do: send them to www.bestofsaipan.com!

Note: For more tips on overcoming your fears, acting on your ideas, changing the game, and creating a passion-centered lifestyle, visit www.passionprofit.com!

■ ■ ■

Until next week, remember, success is a journey, not a destination!

Walt F.J. Goodridge is author of 15 books including *Turn Your Passion Into Profit*. Walt offers coaching and workshops to help people pursue and profit from their passions. Originally from the island of Jamaica, Walt has grown several successful businesses in the US, and now makes his home here in Saipan. To learn more about the Saipanpreneur Project and Walt's philosophy and formula visit www.saipanpreneur.com and www.passionprofit.com

Logical fallacies

Recently, on the news, in the classroom, on the job site: I have heard and seen and been privy to so many misstatements, qualified pronouncements, and outright comical nonsense that I have decided to do a little classifying. Classifying, that is, of some of the kinds of things that I have been running into. Logical fallacies are assertions that on merit are pure nonsense, but which are sold as absolute factual truth by their purveyors. Some of these you may recognize immediately some are perhaps more subtle in their application.

Arguments “ad hominem (to the people).” John and Marsha are lazy bums because they're homeless. Here the people involved, John and Marsha, are cited as being lazy due to the fact that they are homeless. This argument is fallacious since the reason for the homelessness is completely ignored. The people are, in effect, being cited as the reason for homelessness when in fact the reason could be everything from refugee status to mental illness. Similarly, in politics, the president is often cited as the reason for this or that while the fallationist all but completely ignores congressional lobbies, foreign interference, or even natural disasters, e.g., Katrina. Interesting huh.

Circular reasoning. “The economy is bad because tourism is down and tourism is down because the economy is bad.” Speculation in the oil stock markets, political corruption, expensive foreign wars,

By STEPHEN B. SMITH

Special to the Saipan Tribune



Stephen B. Smith is the Accreditation, Language Arts, and National Forensic League coordinator for the Public School System Central Office.






Appeal to celebrity. These are among the worst of false logics. “Tom Cruise is a Scientologist; ergo, Scientology must be a really good thing. Oprah loves the book; therefore, it must be wonderful. Michael Jordan wears Hanes underwear; could anything be more comfortable than what Michael is wearing?”

Now really, I would join the church of Scientology if I were certain that Mr. Cruise—and I love his movies—had an IQ at least more or less the equivalent of a sedimentary rock. I would read Oprah's favorite of the month were I convinced that her taste in literature was similar to my own. And, I would wear Hanes—oh wait—I do wear Hanes! Oh well, you get the idea. Celebrity is not the best of all possible influences, except perhaps as relates to underwear.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
				
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms. Light southwest winds.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. Light south winds.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°

Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Showers	▲86 ▼77
Palau	Showers	▲86 ▼78
Yap	Partly Sunny	▲86 ▼77
Chuuk	Rain	▲87 ▼77
Pohnpei	Showers	▲89 ▼74
Kosrae	Mostly Cloudy	▲89 ▼78
Majuro	Showers	▲86 ▼78

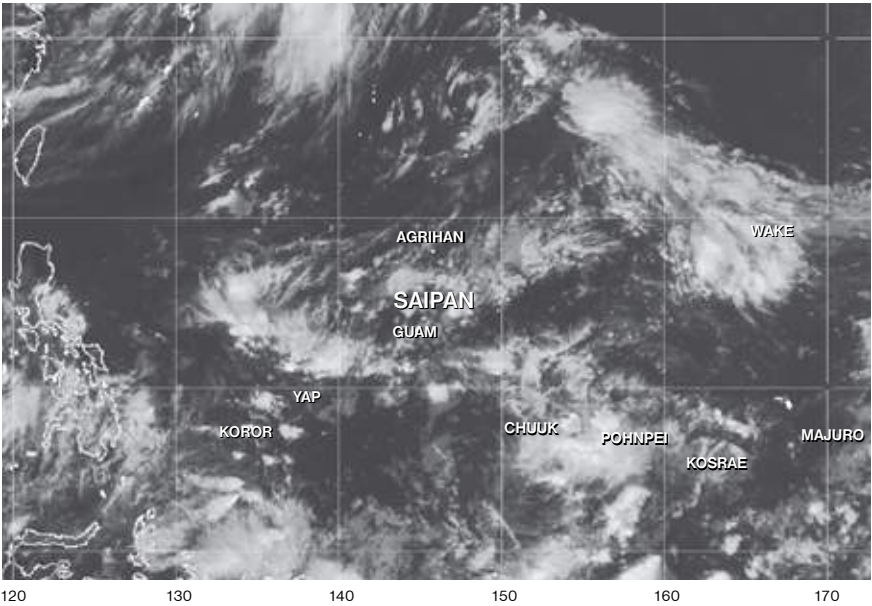
Around The Globe

Auckland	Showers	▲61 ▼56
Beijing	Thundershowers	▲95 ▼77
Hong Kong	Showers	▲89 ▼81
Honolulu	Showers	▲83 ▼74
London	Showers	▲73 ▼55
Los Angeles	Mostly Sunny	▲86 ▼66
Manila	Rain	▲84 ▼78
Melbourne	Showers	▲59 ▼46
Miami	Thundershowers	▲89 ▼79
New York	Cloudy	▲84 ▼71
Osaka	Showers	▲86 ▼71
Paris	Rain	▲74 ▼59
Pusan	Sunny	▲81 ▼68
Rome	Sunny	▲89 ▼68
Salem	Mostly Sunny	▲86 ▼53
San Francisco	Cloudy	▲67 ▼55
Seoul	Mostly Sunny	▲89 ▼68
Tokyo	Showers	▲87 ▼73
Washington, DC	Cloudy	▲88 ▼69

Tides

Saipan Harbor		
1:27 AM Today	Low Tide:	1.3 Feet
6:23 AM Today	High Tide:	2.2 Feet
1:56 PM Today	Low Tide:	0.7 Feet
9:02 PM Today	High Tide:	2.1 Feet

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, TUESDAY, JULY 21, 2009
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A monsoon trough extends from west of 12N130E to 16N135E to a weak circulation near 17N146E to 18N150E to 13N150E to 8N165E. There, it continues as a trade-wind trough to 4N173E. Convergence near the trough axis is creating scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms within 100 miles of a line from 16N132E to 11N141E and between 5N and 8N from 154E to 158E. This activity is north of Yap and south and west of the Marianas. An upper-level low near 26N148E is providing some upper-level divergence which is enhancing the showers between 132E and 141E. An upper-level low centered near 27N177E is triggering scattered showers and a few thunderstorms within 75 miles of line from 22N172E to 23N180. Upper-level divergence between this low and the upper-level low near 26N148E is creating scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms within 200 miles of a line from 16N167E to 25N155E.

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	5:57 AM	6:50 PM
Thursday	5:57 AM	6:50 PM
Friday	5:57 AM	6:50 PM
Saturday	5:58 AM	6:49 PM
Sunday	5:58 AM	6:49 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	4:35 AM	6:04 PM
Wednesday	5:43 AM	7:00 PM
Thursday	6:49 AM	7:50 PM
Friday	7:51 AM	8:36 PM
Saturday	9:46 AM	9:59 PM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMUT SARI Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.

CAMPUS BULLETIN

Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

- For pictures:**
- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
 - Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
 - Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
 - Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
 - For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.
- For announcements:**
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),

- the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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- E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com or jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com.
 - Fax: (670) 235-3740
 - Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
 - Drop off: 2nd Floor, CIC Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
- To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

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SUBSCRIPTION Published Monday to Saturday, *Saipan Tribune* offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of \$160. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JULY 21, 2009

DEPARTURES	ARRIVALS
SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP) C09597 11:50am 12:25pm 1, 7	ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN C09598 3:15am 3:50am 5, 6 C09312 1:20pm 1:55pm 6
ROTA (ROP)-GUAM C09597 12:50pm 1:20pm 1, 7	GUAM-ROTA (ROP) C09598 2:10am 2:40am 5, 6 C09312 12:10pm 12:40pm 6
SAIPAN-GUAM C09317 4:20am 5:10am Daily C09313 8:30am 9:20am Daily C09597 11:50am 1:20pm 1, 7 via ROP C09601 12:30pm 1:20pm 4, 5 C09603 3:30pm 4:20pm Daily C09605 6:30pm 7:20pm Daily C09599 9:30pm 10:20pm Daily	GUAM-SAIPAN C09598 2:10am 3:50am 5, 6 via ROP C09316 2:20am 3:10am 1, 2, 3, 4, 7 C09596 7:00am 7:50am Daily C09600 10:20am 11:10am 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7 C09312 12:10pm 1:55pm 6 via ROP C09602 2:00pm 2:50pm 1, 4, 5, 7 C09604 5:00pm 5:50pm Daily C09606 8:00pm 8:50pm Daily
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT) C0941 5:30am 8:05am Daily NW99 6:05am 8:40am Daily NW78 9:00am 2:05pm Daily via NGO NW75 3:50pm 6:25pm Daily C0943 5:25pm 8:00pm Daily	NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN C0942 9:25am 1:55pm Daily NW76 10:00am 2:35pm Daily NW77 6:35pm 1:40am+1 Daily via NGO NW100 8:45pm 1:20am+1 Daily C0944 9:00pm 1:30am+1 Daily
SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX) OZ119 4:00am 6:40am 1, 3, 4, 6	OSAKA (KIX)-SAIPAN OZ120 9:55pm 2:20am+1 2, 3, 5, 7
SAIPAN-NAGOYA (NGO) NW78 9:00am 11:40am Daily	NAGOYA (NGO)-SAIPAN NW77 9:10pm 1:40am+1 Daily
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS) OZ608 3:20am 6:50am 1, 4, 5, 7	BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN OZ607 9:00pm 2:20am+1 3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN) OZ604 2:20am 6:00am 1 OZ604 2:50am 6:30am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 OZ119 4:00am 11:20am 1, 3, 4, 6 via KIX OZ606 3:30pm 7:00pm 2, 4, 6, 7	SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN OZ605 9:00am 2:30pm 2, 4, 6, 7 OZ120 7:10pm 2:20am+1 2, 3, 5, 7 via KIX OZ603 7:40pm 1:10am+1 7 OZ603 8:10pm 1:40am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG) FM844 2:50am 5:40am 2, 6	SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN FM843 7:15pm 1:50am+1 1, 5
SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN) CZ3008 3:30am 6:40am 2, 6	GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN CZ3007 7:30pm 2:40am+1 1, 5
SAIPAN-MANILA OZ604/701 2:20am 11:25am 1 via ICN OZ604/703 2:50am 11:25am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN C09603/933 3:30pm 8:40pm Daily via GUM C09599/PR111 9:30pm 7:45am+1 1, 2, 4, 6, 7 via GUM	MANILA-SAIPAN OZ702/603 12:45pm 1:10am+1 7 via ICN OZ702/603 12:45pm 1:40am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN PR110/C09596 10:00pm 7:50am+1 1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM C0934/9596 10:55pm 7:50am+1 Daily via GUM OZ704/605 11:50pm 2:30pm+1 2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN
SAIPAN-HONG KONG OZ604/721 2:20am 11:45am 1 via ICN OZ604/721 2:50am 11:45am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	HONG KONG-SAIPAN OZ724/605 12:30am 2:30pm 2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN OZ722/603 1:15pm 1:10am+1 7 via ICN OZ722/603 1:15pm 1:40am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; PR: Philippine Airlines; NW: Northwest; OZ: Asiana
ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency	Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota				FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 100	7:00am	7:30am	Daily	FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 100	7:50am	8:20am	Daily	FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
Saipan-Rota				FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 200	9:00am	9:30am	Daily	FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
FRE 200	9:50am	10:15am	Daily	Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**			
Guam-Rota				FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 300	4:00pm	4:30pm	Daily	FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 300	4:50pm	5:25pm	Daily	FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
Saipan-Rota				FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 400	6:00pm	6:30pm	Daily	FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 400	6:45pm	7:15pm	Daily	FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
Saipan-Tinian				FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 101	6:45am	6:55am	Daily	FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 103	7:30am	7:40am	Daily	FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 105	8:00am	8:10am	Daily	FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 107	8:40am	8:50am	Daily	FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily
FRE 109*	9:10am	9:20am	Daily				
FRE 111*	10:45am	10:55am	Daily				



NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

Learning to learn

You, Yes You, Can Teach Someone to Read: a step-by-step how-to book, was written by Lucille Tessier Chagnon, a former Catholic sister whose adopted twins had difficulties reading at the age of 10.

Ms. Chagnon recommends that each one teach two by letting the learners talk about their real interests. When that happens, when the teacher facilitates the learner's reflection on his experience and environment, many terms become sight words that allow the learner to continue to build on what they already know. People learn best what they teach; teachers teach best when teaching is based on what they are familiar with.

Community-based literacy, which Lucille promotes, would allow even relatively new reader to accelerate his own learning by helping him to teach another child to read in the manner that he or she is learning to learn. Lucille's son took on younger six-year olds and taught them to read. The teacher-student dyad became a teacher-tutor-student triad. This increased self-confidence and self-reliance. Everyone benefited.

SVES has a reading night once a year, and among the more alert teachers, once every quarter. This involves parents in the learning process when they are invited one evening to read to their children in their homeroom. However, in families where the parents are not self-confident in their reading skills, this becomes an additional deterrent to learning. But even when they do read well, the learning process is akin to having to learn Patsy Cline's songs when the child's ear is tuned to Beyonce. We will not comment on the practice of inviting high profile personalities during the day to come and read in the classroom. The PR value is not denied but its pedagogical value is up for question. Peer reading might be a direction we need to shift into in the lesson plan.

"Enthusiastic listening is crucial in working with hesitant readers," Lucille says. "It creates safe space, accelerates learning, and begins to dispel self-defeating beliefs." Compare this to the drill sergeant methodology we currently employ, of the hawk-eyed guardian of neat writing, correct spelling and standard definitions, and we begin to understand why the first five years of elementary education produces dainty and compliant Daisys and Johnnys who suddenly turn darling dare-devils when they get to sixth. They are finally coming to their own in the onset of puberty, and the system's response invariably is to add stringent discipline measures rather than getting the students to reflect and appropriate their new situation. Of course, the previous five years of non-participative education does not lend itself to encouraging independent thoughts at sixth.

This series began with the observation that all of us, bar none, learn our primary language by listening. We correlate words heard with the experiences they point to—objects and actions, and these experiences are the impressions we get through seeing, hearing, tasting, smelling and touching. English learning as a second language must begin with listening to phonics rather than writing letters that represent sounds. The discipline of serious listening is totally absent among my students' skills, and if one ever watch closely the proceedings of public discourse, this holds true in the world of adults as well.

Let's look at ourselves. How many times have we engaged in conversation where, instead of listening carefully on what the other is saying, we are too busy formulating what we are going to say next? This is particularly true in public meetings where we are ex-

pected to say something and we become oblivious of what others are saying because we are too engrossed in packaging what we are going to say next.

How many public meetings have we attended where someone is making a point and a couple of folks are busy holding a conversation on the side? Just go watch the Legislature in session and see how this is played out. Why, even in a judge's sala, where the rule of silence applies while a court is in session, one still finds people who will not contain themselves from holding a separate conversation on the side. Sometimes, even the dirty glance of a court clerk will

Consider our recently departed Michael Jackson and his vocal and footwork skills. He was crooning adult love songs while still a child, mimicking adult sentiments without evidently feeling their import. But he could mimic. He was aware enough of the programming of his genes that body movement, long an appropriated art and skill from the West Coast of Africa to the islands of Caribbean and on to the southern plantations of North America, became the genre of his art, and oh, did he do it so well!

not cause side conversations to desist until the Judge's gavel comes down to demand silence!

Back to learning. We did not learn to communicate by reading and writing. Period. My autistic kids best communicate their desires as well as understand instructions with the use of visual aids when verbal facility is absent. A picture of an ice-cream or a sandwich on the refrigerator door that the language-challenged child would easily point to indicate a desire. Dyslexic children think in "gestalts," of wholes rather than parts, so they do not understand words if they had not heard it or seen it written before. They do not see printed words as a series of letters but as a "blob," akin to the way pictographs or stylized characters served the communication requirements of the early Egyptians and Mayans, and the early Chinese.

Consider our recently departed Michael Jackson and his vocal and footwork skills. He was crooning adult love songs while still a child, mimicking adult sentiments without evidently feeling their import. But he could mimic. He was aware enough of the programming of his genes that body movement, long an appropriated art and skill from the West Coast of Africa to the islands of Caribbean and on to the southern plantations of North America, became the genre

By JAIME VERGARA

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Vergara is a regular contributor to the Saipan Tribune's Opinion Section



of his art, and oh, did he do it so well!

PhysEd at SVES is virtually none existent, and when it periodically shows up, it get s equated with sports, making it PissEd to many, and a raucous platform for the school yard bullies. The awareness, affirmation, and appropriation of our body senses, the proper content of authentic PhysEd, gets sidetracked for as long as our educational curriculum, following the lead of rational thought in the temperate zones of northern Europe, becomes the sole criteria for molding the teaching plate.

Has anyone ever wondered how the crisp uniform and orderly cadence of JROTC movement is so attractive to many of our young? Never mind the social upward mobility and educational advancement it provides. It is attractive because it puts the demand first on the artfulness of the body movement before it requires the discipline of reflection and cognition. Even that last one becomes unnecessary when the organizational structure requires only a designated command and the rest are only obliged to follow. That we are training instruments of mass destruction herded like an army heading for the slaughterhouse is beside the point. The fact is, a huge segment of the young are attracted to fire of the uniformed services as a moth will edge close to the flame.

Watch those who perform during the Thursday Garapan street market and track them down to their record in academic homerooms and discover the disparity in measures of excellence. One need to wonder why, if only for pedagogical and epistemological reasons.

It is time to open the floodgates of learning from the perspective of those on the front lines before we lean towards the proclivities of those who design programs at Central. Before we ask teachers whether they had passed PRAXIS, wouldn't we want to know first if they are familiar and conversant with how they themselves learned? PSS has long promoted the notion of 'community of learners,' or the 'learning community' at the school level. Perhaps, turning our school-level meetings into real workshops and seminars, participatory and flexible, rather than the top-to-bottom information track that they are, would be the appropriate order of the day.

ACT might do the system a favor by gathering its members to raise that question as a relevant focus in epistemology instead of acquiescing to those sessions of Professional Development where they get to listen to the latest fad in educational Journals that someone is obligated to 'echo' after attending a conference on the matter, and force fed down their unwary and disinterested faithful throats whose attendance to the gathering is primarily motivated by the additional remuneration, and whose compliance on the last consensus on Standards and Benchmarks is at best, dubious.

Sorry, Betty and Sam, didn't mean to sound cynical, but hey, shouldn't unretireable curmudgeons be allowed their say in this the Summer of our Discontents?

Letters to the Editor

An appropriate response to inappropriate behavior

Like many others, I was surprised to discover the jury was able to return a guilty verdict in the trial of former Lt. Gov. Timothy P. Villagomez. One could hardly have imagined, given the political and cultural climate of the CNMI, that any jury would have dared to seek justice with "open minds and closed eyes." The jury members are to be honored and congratulated for their daring and willing spirit to have let facts determine their decision—not personal relationships and past friendships.

Forgiveness and justice are close family members! However, Tim Villagomez broke the law; violated the public trust and has sadly scarred his family's integrity. The seriousness of his actions can only be addressed by a significant prison sentence.

In only this way can Mr. Villagomez ever hope to regain the public's trust; his family's integrity, and his own sense of human worth. In only this way can forgiveness become an instrument of honesty and justice.

Leniency in this matter would send a totally unkind and unhelpful message to the wonderful people of the CNMI. A significant prison sentence should not be seen as an act of revenge—rather as an appropriate response to incredibly inappropriate behavior.

Rev. Ewing W. Carroll Jr.
Retired pastor

What kind of CUC recovery?

CUC, recovering by themselves? Or by customers? I was appalled the other day when we went to go pay our CUC bill. And we have been paying our bill in full for the past several months. And all of a sudden, there is an outstanding balance left! When we went to customer service, I will not mention her name, but she just kept on saying "no, you didn't pay this amount in full" and the amount that was left was years ago.

How can this problem pop up now, when every time we pay our bill, the balance shows zero? Then she said it was separate. How the hell were we supposed to know when it was under a separate category? Then she just kept on repeating herself that we have not

been paying in full for the past couple of months and that we were only paying partial.

What the hell is going on behind closed doors? Is this really the way to solve things? I was so furious but I did not want to cause a scene because my mother was very calm about it.

She did not want to cause a scene either, she was just trying to understand how there is still an outstanding balance after we have been paying our bills in full. The lady was acting like she did not even hear what we were saying, she was not answering any questions, she just kept on repeating herself that we had to pay this amount because we did not pay it.

Thanks for sharing our sorrow

The sorrow at the passing away of our beloved brother, father, cousin, grandfather, and friend Sgt. Francisco L. Kaipat would have been greater if it weren't for so many people who where there to share our sorrow.

We, the Kaipat family, would like to extend our sincere thank you, *si yuus maase, olomway* to those who took the time out from their busy lives and job to be with us during our time of sorrow. Once again, from our families to yours, *si yuus maase*, thank you, and *olomway*.

Josepha L. Kaipat
Kagman II

What is really going on in there? Why did this amount just suddenly pop up out of nowhere. She was not helpful, she just kept on punching numbers in her calculator and writing numbers down, and no, it did not make sense about what she was saying about the numbers.

Who is really helping us? Or is the government just trying to get more money from us just to cover up their mistakes? This is an outrage. And yes, I do intend to talk to the manager of CUC to settle this ridiculous new problem.

Mary Grace Santos
Via e-mail

Business

CIT secures \$3 billion financing from bondholders

NEW YORK (AP)—Commercial lender CIT Group Inc. confirmed late Monday that it has secured a \$3 billion bailout from its bondholders, averting an immediate bankruptcy filing and giving the company some breathing room to restructure its debt. It's a new twist in the financial crisis: A major bank on the verge of a last-minute rescue—only this time the bailout isn't coming from the government. The deal marks the first time since the banking crisis erupted that private investors are stepping in to save a big financial firm without federal help or oversight.

The lifeline for CIT, whose clients include Dunkin' Donuts franchises and clothing maker Eddie Bauer, aims to sustain the company long enough for it to rework its heavy debt load, which includes \$7.4 billion due in the first quarter of next year. It does not guarantee CIT will



A building bearing the logo of the CIT Group is seen in New York, Monday, July 20, 2009. The board of CIT Group Inc., one of the nation's largest lenders to small and midsize businesses, approved a deal with major bondholders to keep the company out of bankruptcy, said two people briefed on the talks.

avoid bankruptcy.

CIT said the rescue includes a \$3 billion secured term loan with a 2.5-year maturity, which will ensure that its small and midsized business customers continue to have access to cred-

it. Term loan proceeds of \$2 billion are committed and available immediately, with an additional \$1 billion expected to be committed and available within 10 days. The short-term financing comes at a high price—an inter-

est rate of about 10.5 percent, said a person close to the negotiations who was not authorized to discuss the matter publicly.

CIT also said it has launched a cash tender offer for its \$1 billion worth of outstanding

floating rate senior notes due Aug. 17, offering \$825 for each \$1,000 worth of notes tendered on or before July 31, and \$800 for notes tendered between Aug. 1 and Aug. 17. Lenders involved in the bailout deal have agreed to tender all of their Aug. 17 notes, CIT said. The company and the steering committee of bondholders now will work on drawing up a number of debt swap offers designed to alleviate CIT's debt burden and further shore up the company's cash position.

"With today's announcement, our board of directors, management team, advisors, and a steering committee of bondholders, who are lenders under the term loan financing, are now actively focused on a restructuring plan that will better position our company for the long term," said Jeffrey M. Peek, CIT chairman and CEO, in a statement.

Yahoo jazzes up home page with major makeover

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Yahoo Inc. is sprucing up its Web site's home page with a long-promised makeover that is supposed to make it easier to see what's happening at the Internet's other hot spots.

The revamped home page, scheduled to debut Tuesday in the United States, is part of an overhaul aimed at recapturing some of the buzz that Yahoo has lost to increasingly popular online hangouts like Facebook, MySpace and Twitter.

Even as Yahoo's star has faded, its Web site has remained among the Internet's busiest. More than 570 million people worldwide came to Yahoo in May, according to the most recent data available from online research firm comScore Inc.

The retooled page will be introduced in the United Kingdom, India and France later this week. It will roll out to the rest of the world during the next year, with the option to retain the old design starting to phase out this fall.

The Sunnyvale, Calif.-based company is hailing the new look as the biggest change to its front page since Yahoo's Web site launched 15 years ago. It's the first time that Yahoo has overhauled its home page since 2006.

"Every pixel on the page is relevant now," boasted Tapan Bhat, a Yahoo senior vice president who oversaw the revisions. "We have taken out a lot of our own stuff that was creating a dead zone for our users."

After spending the past 10 months tinkering with the redesign, Yahoo has a lot riding on the new look.

Bernanke preps for hot seat on bailouts, recovery

WASHINGTON (AP)—Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke likely will face tough questions this week from lawmakers about taxpayer bailouts of financial companies, slowing government efforts to curb home foreclosures and the possibility that the Fed's unprecedented steps to stimulate the economy could spur inflation later on.

The Fed chief is scheduled to deliver a fresh report on the country's economic and finan-

cial health in back-to-back sessions on Capitol Hill starting Tuesday morning at 10 a.m. EDT with the House Financial Services Committee.

Skeptical lawmakers also are expected to voice concern about an Obama administration proposal that would expand the Fed's oversight duties over big, globally interconnected financial companies whose failure could imperil the national economy.

Bernanke on Tuesday likely will repeat the central bank's

belief that the economy will start growing again sometime in the second half of this year helped by record low interest rates and President Barack Obama's \$787 billion stimulus package of tax cuts and increased government spending.

Consumer spending appears to have stabilized, new-home sales are flattening out and declines in

capital spending do not look as severe as they had at the beginning of the year, the Fed said last week.

"Bernanke's message: guardedly optimistic. We are seeing signs of the economy's impending turnaround. But it is all pretty much impending still," said Bill Cheney, chief economist at John Hancock Financial Services.



Bernanke

In 2nd vote, Boston Globe union accepts wage cuts

BOSTON (AP)—After rejecting an earlier offer, *The Boston Globe's* largest union voted overwhelmingly Monday to approve a new contract that would give the financially struggling newspaper \$10 million in concessions.

The Globe, on its Web site,

reported that the Boston Newspaper Guild voted 366-179 to accept the deal that was hammered out after the union narrowly voted down a similar package last month.

The Guild represents about 700 editorial, advertising and

business employees at *The Globe*. The newspaper's parent, The New York Times Co., imposed a 23 percent wage cut after the union rejected a contract that called for an 8.3 percent wage cut, unpaid furloughs, benefit cuts and the elimination

of lifetime job guarantees for nearly 200 staffers.

The new contract cuts salaries by nearly 6 percent. It also includes unpaid furloughs, a pension freeze, a reduction in health care benefits and the elimination of lifetime job guarantees.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

TD Ameritrade settles securities investigation

NEW YORK (AP)—Retail brokerage firm TD Ameritrade Inc. agreed on Monday to repurchase \$456 million in auction-rate securities from investors as part of a settlement with the New York Attorney General's office and Securities and Exchange Commission. Attorney General Andrew Cuomo's office also said it plans to sue the brokerage Charles Schwab & Co., saying it misrepresented the safety of such securities. Cuomo's office has been at the forefront of pushing brokers and underwriters of auction-rate securities to repurchase them from investors who were left with steep losses after the market for the investments collapsed in early 2008.

Deal reached to close Calif.'s \$26B budget deficit

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP)—Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger and California's legislative leaders agreed Monday on a plan to close the state's \$26 billion budget shortfall,

potentially getting the state back on firm financial ground so it can stop issuing IOUs. The governor and leaders from both parties announced the compromise after more than five hours of closed-door talks. If the agreement survives its run through both houses of the Legislature, it would provide temporary relief to an epic fiscal crisis that has captured national attention, sunk the state's credit rating and forced deep cuts in education and social services. Most analysts and top lawmakers expect that California will face multibillion dollar deficits into the foreseeable future as the economy struggles to recover and tax revenue lags far behind the level of the boom years.

Citi group seizes resort where AIG held retreat

DANA POINT, Calif. (AP)—A Southern California resort where American International Group Inc. sponsored a luxury retreat after receiving federal bailout money has been seized by Citigroup. The owners of the St. Regis Monarch Beach in Dana

Point were in default on a \$70 million loan from a real estate unit of Citigroup Inc., resulting in the takeover. Citigroup said last month it would sell the property at a foreclosure auction. However, when no bidders came forward, the bank and the owners agreed to let Citigroup take ownership without that formal step.

Texas Instruments 2Q profit falls 56 percent

DALLAS (AP)—Texas Instruments Inc. reported Monday its second-quarter earnings fell 56 percent as the chip maker's sales were clipped by a weak economy that the company expects will "take some time" to strengthen. But TI was heartened by an improvement from the first quarter, as customers started ramping up their inventory to more closely reflect demand. "For us, it's encouraging to see that revenue appears to have bottomed," Ron Slaymaker, vice president of investor relations, told The Associated Press. However, "we don't necessarily see a significant strengthening in the broader economy."

STOCK Portfolio	
ASIAN MARKETS	
AUSTRALIA	4,049.00 Up 4.80 (+0.12%)
HONG KONG	19,539.83 Up 37.46 (+0.19%)
JAKARTA	2,142.23 Up 35.88 (+1.70%)
TOKYO	9,557.42 Up 162.10 (+1.73%)
K. LUMPUR	1,140.08 Up 0.83 (+0.07%)
MANILA	2,593.51 Up 5.60 (+0.22%)
SINGAPORE	2,469.19 Up 13.04 (+0.53%)
SEOUL	1,486.46 Up 7.95 (+0.54%)
BANGKOK	616.37 Up 2.70 (+0.44%)

LEADING INDICATORS

DOW
8,848.15
+1.19%

S&P
951.13
+1.14%

NASDAQ
1,909.29
+1.20%

MONEY MARKET

Australian Dollar	1.2296
British Pound	0.6052
Canadian Dollar	1.1080
Chinese Yuan	6.8313
Euro	0.7037
Hong Kong Dollar	7.7500
Indian Rupee	48.3100
Indonesian Rupiah	10,045.0000
Japanese Yen	93.8750
Malaysian Ringgit	3.5395
New Zealand Dollar	1.5268
Philippine Peso	48.0850
Singapore Dollar	1.4421
South Korean Won	1,244.4000
Swiss Franc	1.0697
Taiwan Dollar	32.8000
Thailand Baht	34.0100

In U.S. dollar terms

Source: Associated Press

Nation

Obama challenges GOP critics on health care

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Barack Obama pushed back hard against Republican critics of his health care overhaul plan Monday, dismissing the “politics of the moment” marked by GOP comparisons of his efforts to socialism.

Struggling to revamp the nation’s \$2.4 trillion health care system, the president gave ground on his tight timetable for passage of sweeping legislation.

Obama’s strong words came just hours after Republicans ratcheted up their criticism of the president and congressional Democrats. Michael Steele, chairman of the Republican Party, likened Obama’s plans to socialism and argued that the president, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and key congressional committee chairmen are part of a “cabal” that wants to implement government-run health care.

The White House also faced troubling news in the latest polling, with approval of Obama’s handling of health care slipping.

“We can’t afford the politics of delay and defeat when it comes to health care,” Obama said after meeting with doctors, nurses and other health care workers at Children’s National Medical Center. “Not this time. Not now. There are too many lives and livelihoods at stake.”

Without mentioning his critic by name, the president recounted South Carolina Republican Sen. Jim DeMint’s comment that stopping Obama’s bid for health care overhaul could be the president’s “Waterloo,” a reference to the site of Napoleon’s bitter defeat in 1815.

“This isn’t about me,” Obama responded. “This isn’t about politics. This is about a health care system that is breaking America’s families, breaking America’s businesses and breaking America’s economy.”

Striking a more populist tone than in past remarks, the president complained that “health insurance companies and their executives have reaped windfall profits from a broken system.”

“Let’s fight our way through the politics of the moment,” Obama said. “Let’s pass reform by the end of this year.”

That reflects a shift in a timetable he has stressed repeatedly. Obama had said previously that he wanted the House and Senate to vote on legislation before lawmakers leave town for their August recess, with a comprehensive bill for him to sign in October.

“I want this done now. Now, if there are no deadlines, nothing gets done in this town,” Obama told PBS’s “The NewsHour.” “If somebody comes to me and says ‘It’s basically done, it’s going to spill over by a few days or a week,’ you know, that’s different.”

He said too much of the focus has been on what has not been accomplished instead of on a coalition of health companies, professionals and constituents. Later in the day, aides organized a conference call for Obama to speak with liberal bloggers and rally them behind the White House’s broad outline for overhaul.



President Barack Obama talks about his plan for health care reform following a round-table discussion with health care providers during a visit to Children’s National Medical Center in Washington, Monday, July 20, 2009. AP

Obama meets astronauts; no promise of moon or Mars

WASHINGTON (AP)—The same question that could have been asked 40 years ago moments after Neil Armstrong stepped on the moon is still being asked today: Now what?

On the 40th anniversary of man’s first moon landing, the Apollo 11 crew met with President Barack Obama, who used the opportunity to talk about inspiration and science and math education. He didn’t talk about going anywhere in space, not the moon or Mars.

Obama said he wanted to use Monday’s anniversary of the Apollo moon landing to show that “math and science are cool again.”

“The touchstone for excellence in

exploration and discovery is always going to be represented by the men of Apollo 11,” Obama said. He said their work sparked “innovation, the drive, the entrepreneurship, the creativity back here on Earth.”

That’s not what the men who went to the moon had in mind.

Earlier in the day, seven Apollo astronauts, including Apollo 11’s Buzz Aldrin, used a news conference to talk about their desire to go to Mars and not linger on the moon as long as NASA plans.

“All of us here are pretty much convinced that Mars is a goal to shoot for,” said Tom Stafford, commander of Apollo 10, which orbited the moon and tested the lunar module.

On a day when everyone lauded NASA for landing on the moon and dreaming big, the space agency’s overall plan for future exploration remained in a holding pattern. Again.

The Obama administration is waiting for a recommendation from an outside panel, which will examine a return-to-the-moon policy that started under President George W. Bush and compare that to other goals and different spaceship designs. With NASA’s new boss Charles Bolden Jr. and its biggest stars—Armstrong, Aldrin and Apollo 11 crewmate Michael Collins—shaking Obama’s hand in the Oval Office, it was an opportunity to chart a new course to somewhere.

Black scholar’s arrest raises profiling questions

BOSTON (AP)—Police responding to a call about “two black males” breaking into a home near Harvard University ended up arresting the man who lives there—Henry Louis Gates Jr., the nation’s pre-eminent black scholar.

Gates had forced his way through the front door because it was jammed, his lawyer said. Colleagues call the arrest last Thursday afternoon a clear case of racial profiling.

Cambridge police say they responded to the well-maintained two-story home after a woman reported seeing “two black males with backpacks on the porch,” with one “wedging his shoulder into the door as if he was trying



This booking photo released by the Cambridge, Mass., Police Dept., shows Harvard scholar Henry Louis Gates Jr. ing to force entry. AP

By the time police arrived, Gates was already inside. Police say he refused to come outside to speak with an officer, who told him he was investigating a report of a break-in.

“Why, because I’m a black man in America?” Gates said, according to a police report written by Sgt. James Crowley. The Cambridge police refused to comment on the arrest Monday.

Gates—the director of Harvard’s W.E.B. Du Bois Institute for African and African American Research—initially refused to show the officer his identification, but then gave him a Harvard University ID card, according to police.

“Gates continued to yell at me, accusing me of racial bias and continued to tell me that I had not heard the last of him,” the officer wrote.

AP sources: Govt delays terror policy reports

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Obama administration on Monday pushed back its own deadline for devising new anti-terrorism policies.

The decision had been expected, as presidentially appointed task forces have failed to meet a six-month schedule for making policy recommendations on how terror suspects should be interrogated, held in custody or handed over to other countries.

Senior administration officials said Monday that the report on detention will be delayed six months and the report on interrogation and transfer policy will be delayed two months.

The officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to discuss the issue on the record.

As the administration quietly acknowledged the delay, a task force sent Attorney General Eric Holder and Defense Secretary Robert Gates a preliminary report summarizing their legal goals for handling terror suspects in the future.

“Where appropriate, prosecution of those responsible must occur as soon as possible, whether in federal court or before a military commission,” according to the five-page memo on detention policy sent to the White House.

“Justice cannot be done, however, unless those who are accused of crimes are proved guilty beyond a reasonable doubt in a court of law that affords them a full and fair opportunity to contest the charges against them,” the memo concludes.

The Obama administration has reached the halfway mark in its self-imposed goal to close the Guantanamo Bay detention facility by January 2010.

Six months after President Barack Obama signed the closure order, fewer than 20 of about 245 inmates have been transferred out of the U.S. military base in Cuba. Currently, there are 229 detainees at Guantanamo, and the administration, by its own clock, has six months more to remove them.

ACROSS THE NATION

Same-name couple to wed after Facebook meeting

MIAMI (AP)—This October, Kelly Hildebrandt will vow to share her life with a man who already shares her name. This is no joke. Kelly Katrina Hildebrandt, 20, and Kelly Carl Hildebrandt, 24, expect just over 100 guests at a ceremony at the Lighthouse Point Yacht & Racquet Club in South Florida, where they will become husband and wife. “He is just everything that I’ve ever looked for,” she said in an interview. “There’s

always been certain qualities that a guy has to have. And he has all the ones I could think of—and more.”

Family of captured soldier wants privacy in ordeal

HAILEY, Idaho (AP)—The Pentagon said Monday that troops are “sparing no effort” to find an American soldier captured by the Taliban as his family pleaded for privacy and residents in his hometown tied yellow ribbons on trees along Main Street in

a show of solidarity. The actions came two days after the Taliban released a video of Pfc. Bowe R. Bergdahl in captivity expressing his fear that he would never see or hug his family again. The footage showed Bergdahl with his head shaved, eating a meal and sitting cross-legged on what appeared to be a bunk. “We’ve been overwhelmed with the outpouring of support and concern towards Bowe and our family,” the family said in a statement read by Blaine County Sheriff Walt Femling. “As you know,

the situation is extremely difficult for everyone involved. We’d like to remind all of you our sole focus is seeing our beloved son Bowe safely home.”

Fla. officials to talk to 3 in slain couple case

PENSACOLA, Fla. (AP)—One of the suspects in the home-invasion slaying of a Florida couple who adopted 13 special needs children had opened a martial-arts studio with financial help from the victims, according to court records released Monday. The records are the first

indication that Byrd, 66, and Melanie Billings, 43, had financial ties with any of the suspects and the latest twist in the strange shooting deaths of the couple who were raising 17 children, many with severe disabilities. They were killed July 9 in their sprawling Pensacola home by masked men—some dressed as ninjas. In an affidavit for a warrant to search the home of Leonard Patrick Gonzalez Jr., investigators wrote that the suspect told them he knew the Billingses because he had received financial support from them to open the studio.

Asia

Japan PM dissolves parliament, calls elections

TOKYO (AP)—Japanese Prime Minister Taro Aso dissolved the powerful lower house of parliament Tuesday, setting the stage for national elections next month that could transform the country's political power structure.

In Japan, the prime minister can decide when to disband parliament and call a general election. Aso had postponed doing so in the hope that his low approval ratings would recover, but after his party was routed in local elections last week he announced the elections for parliament's lower house would be held Aug. 30.

The country's political parties quickly shifted into election mode, holding rallies of their lawmakers. Japan's opposition leader vowed the elections would be "historic."

The ruling Liberal Democratic Party has maintained a majority in the lower house for most of the past 50 years, allowing them to dominate the lawmaking process and select the prime minister and Cabinet members from party ranks.

Recent opinion polls show the next election could be different, with



Japan's Prime Minister Taro Aso bows to his Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) lawmakers during their meeting at the LDP headquarters in Tokyo Tuesday, July 21, 2009.

Surprise confession by surviving Mumbai gunman

MUMBAI, India (AP)—The lone surviving gunman in the Mumbai attacks made a surprise confession at his trial Monday, saying he was recruited by a militant group inside Pakistan after he left a low-paying job and went looking for training to become a professional robber.

The confession by Ajmal Kasab bolstered India's charges that terrorist groups in neighboring Pakistan were behind the well-planned attack, and that it is not doing enough to clamp down on them. The attack in which 166 people died severely strained relations and put the brakes on a peace process between the nuclear-armed enemies.

As part of the confession, Kasab described how he sprayed automatic gunfire at commuters while a comrade hurled grenades inside a railway station during one of India's worst terrorist acts.

"I was in front of Abu Ismail who had taken such a position that no one

could see him," Kasab told the court. "We both fired, Abu Ismail and I. We fired on the public," he said, speaking in Hindi.

Kasab, a Pakistani who had consistently denied a role in the November rampage, reversed himself without warning, shocking even his lawyer.

In a calmly delivered statement, Kasab described how the attackers were sent from Karachi, Pakistan, by four men—some of them known leaders with the Pakistan-based Islamic extremist group Lashkar-e-Taiba.

They traveled by boat arriving Nov. 26 in Mumbai, where they unleashed three days of mayhem. The 10 gunmen, armed with automatic rifles and grenades, split into pairs and killed people at a railway station, a Jewish center, a hospital and two five-star hotels, including the Taj Mahal.

Seema Desai, an analyst at the Eurasia Group in London, said Kasab's

assertions could "increase tensions between India and Pakistan."

"Most likely Pakistan will not give his statements much credence and will question the circumstances under which he changed his story," she said in an e-mail.

Kasab faces the death penalty if convicted on the charges of murder and waging war against the country.

As the 66th day of Kasab's trial started Monday morning, he stood up just as a prosecution witness was to take the stand, and addressed the judge.

"Sir, I plead guilty to my crime," said Kasab, 21, triggering a collective gasp in the courtroom.

After a debate on the legality of such a confession, Kasab's statement was recorded, and the judge said he would have Kasab sign each page of the document, which would be reviewed by his lawyer, formally reversing his plea from innocent to guilty.

related facilities, echoing similar reports that have long circulated in Myanmar's exile community and media.

Meanwhile, Japanese police arrested a North Korean and two Japanese nationals last month for allegedly trying to export a magnetic measuring device to Myanmar that could be used to develop missiles.

And a recent report from Washington-based Radio Free Asia and Myanmar exile media said senior Myanmar military officers made a top secret visit late last year to North Korea, where an agreement was concluded for greatly expanding cooperation to modernize Myanmar's military muscle, including the construction of underground installations. The military pact report has yet to be confirmed.

In June, photographs, video and reports showed as many as 800 tunnels, some of them vast, dug in Myanmar with North Korean assistance under an operation code-named "Tortoise Shells." The photos were reportedly taken between 2003 and 2006.

many voters saying they will support the opposition. This has happened repeatedly in local elections, where the Liberal Democrats have suffered a string of defeats.

"The feelings and complaints of the people have been demonstrated in the recent elections. We must sincerely reflect on this and are determined to make a fresh start," Aso told party lawmakers.

At an upbeat meeting of the biggest opposition party, the Democratic Party of Japan, party leader Yukio Hatoyama said the election would lead to a major

change in Japanese politics for the first time in decades.

"This is not just a matter of drawing the curtain on the Liberal Democrats. It is not as small as that," he said. "We must go into this election with a feeling of our historic mission."

Several recent polls have indicated broad support for the Democrats. Fifty-six percent of voters said they wanted the Democrats to take power, with just 23 percent supporting the ruling party, according to a poll published Monday in the Mainichi newspaper.

Afghan blast kills 4 GIs in deadliest month for US

KABUL (AP)—A roadside bomb killed four American troops in eastern Afghanistan on Monday, driving the July death toll for U.S. forces to the highest monthly level of the war.

The latest deaths brought to at least 30 the number of American service members who have died in Afghanistan this month—two more than the figure for all of June 2008, which had been the deadliest month for the U.S. since the 2001 U.S.-led invasion drove the Taliban from power.

July's death toll for the entire U.S.-led coalition, which includes American, British, Canadian and other forces, stands at 55—well over the previous record of 46 deaths suffered in June and August of 2008.

U.S. commanders had predicted a bloody summer after President Barack Obama ordered 21,000 additional U.S. troops to Afghanistan in a bid to turn the tide against a resurgent Taliban and shift the focus on the global war against Islamic extremism from Iraq.

NATO's outgoing Secretary-General Jaap de Hoop Scheffer said Monday that terrorism would spread

through the world if NATO forces fail in Afghanistan.

"Al-Qaida would have a free run again, and their terrorist ambitions are global," he said in a speech at London's Chatham House think tank. "Those who argue otherwise—who say we can defend against terrorism from home—are simply burying their heads in the sand."

Defense Secretary Robert Gates has warned that U.S.-led forces must demonstrate progress in Afghanistan by next summer or face a public perception that the conflict cannot be won. Heavy losses this month have already triggered a public debate in Britain that the war in Afghanistan may not be worth the price. With more troops in the country, American and British forces have been striking deeper into Taliban strongholds in the south, hoping to establish enough security for Afghans to choose a president next month and cut insurgent supply lines into Pakistan.

British military authorities said Monday that bombing attacks in southern Afghanistan soared nearly 43 percent for the first five months of this year over the same period last year.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Asia will witness 21st century's longest eclipse

BANGKOK (AP)—Millions of people across Asia will witness the longest total solar eclipse that will happen this century, as vast swaths of India and China, the entire city of Shanghai and southern Japanese islands are plunged into darkness Wednesday for about five minutes. Streams of amateur stargazers and scientists are traveling long distances to witness the once-in-a-lifetime event. Astronomers hope the eclipse will unlock clues about the sun, while an astrologer in Myanmar predicts it could usher in chaos. Some in India are advising pregnant relatives to stay indoors to follow a centuries-old tradition of avoiding the sun's invisible rays.

Southeast Asia's most wanted militant at large

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP)—Southeast Asia's most wanted Muslim militant is said to be a masterful bomb-maker and aspiring regional commander for al-Qaida, who has eluded capture for nearly a decade. Malaysian Noordin Mohammad Top, classified by the U.S. State Department as a terrorism financier since the 2002 and 2005 Bali bombings, is believed to have struck again last week when twin

suicide blasts killed seven at the Ritz-Carlton and J.W. Marriott hotels in the Indonesian capital, Jakarta—at least four of them foreigners. "Noordin is a smart and cunning terrorist," Brig. Surya Dharma, the former head of the Detachment 88 anti-terrorism unit told The Associated Press. "He wants to show that he deserves to be the commander of al-Qaida here in Southeast Asia."

RP says 10 Filipinos died in Afghan crash

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Ten Filipino workers were among the civilians killed in a helicopter crash at NATO's largest air base in Afghanistan, officials said Tuesday. All 16 people aboard the Russian-owned civilian Mi-8 helicopter died Sunday when it slammed into the tarmac at Kandahar Air Base shortly after takeoff. Philippine diplomats from neighboring Pakistan have arrived in the Afghan capital, Kabul, to help identify the bodies and repatriate them, Foreign Affairs Undersecretary Esteban Conejos told The Associated Press. He said the victims' next of kin were being informed Tuesday. The Philippines has banned its overseas workers from Afghanistan, but many still end up employed at military bases there.

Is Myanmar going nuclear?

BANGKOK (AP)—The recent aborted voyage of a North Korean ship, photographs of massive tunnels and a top secret meeting have raised alarm bells that one of the world's poorest nations may be aspiring to join the nuclear club—with help from its friends in Pyongyang. No one expects military-run Myanmar, also known as Burma, to obtain an atomic bomb anytime soon, but experts have the Southeast Asian nation on their radar screen.

"There's suspicion that something is going on, and increasingly that cooperation with North Korea may have a nuclear undercurrent. We are very much looking into it," says David Albright, president of the Institute for Science and International Security, a Washington, D.C. think tank.

The issue is expected to be discussed, at least on the sidelines, at this week's ASEAN Regional Forum, a major se-

curity conference hosted by Thailand. U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton, along with representatives from North Korea and Myanmar, will attend.

Alert signals sounded recently when a North Korean freighter, the Kang Nam I, headed toward Myanmar with undisclosed cargo. Shadowed by the U.S. Navy, it reversed course and returned home earlier this month.

It is still not clear what was aboard. U.S. and South Korean officials suspected artillery and other non-nuclear arms, but one South Korean intelligence expert, citing satellite imagery, says the ship's mission appeared to be related to a Myanmar nuclear program and also carried Scud-type missiles.

The expert, speaking on condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the issue, said North Korea is helping Myanmar set up uranium—and nuclear-

World

Iran election dispute escalates to new phase



This photo, taken by an individual not employed by the Associated Press and obtained by the AP outside Iran, shows Iranian pro-government worshippers at Friday prayers holding posters of the late revolutionary founder Ayatollah Khomeini, right at the posters, and supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, at the Tehran University campus in Tehran, Iran, Friday, July 17, 2009.

TEHRAN, Iran (AP)—Iran's election dispute has moved beyond the drama of mass street protests to a new phase: a fight for power within the ruling religious establishment itself.

The conflict escalated as the country's supreme leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, backed by hard-line clerics and the Revolutionary Guard, issued a warning to the opposition in general and powerful cleric Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani in particular.

"The elite should be watchful, since they have been faced with a big test. Failing the test will cause their col-

lapse," Khamenei said Monday in a speech marking a religious holiday. "Anybody who drives the society toward insecurity and disorder is a hated person in the view of the Iranian nation, whoever he is."

The opposition was emboldened when Rafsanjani stepped into the fray with a Friday prayer sermon that sharply criticized the leadership's handling of the postelection crisis. He has re-ignited the opposition, emerging as its leading patron.

"You are facing something new: an awakened nation, a nation that has

been born again and is here to defend its achievements," opposition leader Mir Hossein Mousavi said Monday in comments that appeared pointed directly at Khamenei, in a tone rarely used toward the supreme leader.

Mousavi, whose loss in recent presidential elections triggered mass protests, also derided the claim by Khamenei and hard-line clerics that the protest movement was a tool of foreign enemies. "Who believes that (protesters) would conspire with foreigners and sell the interests of their own country?" he said. "Isn't this an insult to our nation?"

Top UN climate expert faults G-8 goal without deed

UNITED NATIONS (AP)—The chairman of the U.N. Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change said Monday that the Group of Eight nations had "clearly ignored" taking any concrete action to accomplish its new goal of limiting climate change.

Rajendra Pachauri, whose scientific panel shared the Nobel Peace Prize with former vice president Al Gore in 2007, praised the G-8 summit in Italy this month for taking "a big step forward" by agreeing to limit the planet's average temperature rise to 2 degrees Celsius (3.6 degrees Fahrenheit) above levels recorded 150 years ago.

He faulted the world's wealthiest countries, however, because he said

they "clearly ignored what the IPCC came up with" to reach that goal.

"It's interesting that the G-8 leaders agreed on this aspirational goal of (limiting) a temperature increase of (no more than) 2 degrees Celsius, which certainly is a big step forward in my view," he told reporters at U.N. headquarters. "But what I find as a dichotomy in this position is the fact that they clearly ignored what the IPCC came up with."

The question of which nations will agree to limit their heat-trapping gases mainly from fossil fuels is taking on increasing urgency at the United Nations, which is sponsoring the key round of talks in December to achieve a climate deal in Copenhagen, Denmark. U.N.

Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon has made it his No. 1 priority to persuade nations to agree to a successor treaty to the 1997 Kyoto Protocol for reducing greenhouse gases, which expires at the end of 2012.

Pachauri said the G-8 leaders also should have accepted the panel's conclusion that greenhouse gas emissions must peak no later than 2015 and then rich countries must reduce emissions from 2005 levels by between 25 percent and 40 percent by 2020. Doing that, climate scientists say, may help the world avoid the worst effects of warming, which they say will lead to widespread drought, floods, higher sea levels and worsening storms.

South Africa begins AIDS vaccine trial, cuts funds

CAPE TOWN, South Africa (AP)—South Africa launched a high-profile trial of an AIDS vaccine created by its own researchers Monday, a proud moment in a nation where government denial, neglect and unscientific responses have helped fuel the world's worst AIDS crisis.

After a government official lauded the project at a ceremony at Cape Town's Crossroads shantytown, the scientist leading the research said state funding had been halted.

The contrast between Monday's hopeful vaccine launch and the revelation of funding cuts raised questions about whether the government was backsliding on its pledge to combat AIDS.

Anna-Lise Williamson, an AIDS researcher at the University of Cape Town, told The Associated Press the clinical trial would continue with U.S. money. But she said South Africa's Department of Science and Technology had pulled its funding in March, while the project's other sponsor, the state electricity utility Eskom, did not renew its contract when it expired last year.

Neither government spokesmen nor Eskom immediately returned calls seeking comment about funding cuts.

The South African vaccine was developed at the University of Cape Town and targets the specific HIV strain that has ravaged South Africa. It is also undergoing safety tests at a trial involving 12 volunteers in Boston that began earlier this year, said Sarah B. Alexander, spokeswoman for the HIV Vaccine Trials Network at the Fenway Institute, an AIDS treatment center where the trial is under way.

The safety trials started in the U.S. to allay any criticism the United States was collaborating on an AIDS vaccine that might be seen as using Africans as guinea pigs, she said.

At Monday's ceremony in Cape Town, one of 36 healthy young volunteers was injected as government officials, AIDS researchers and journalists watched. The event was also attended by American health officials who gave technical help and manufactured the vaccine at the U.S. National Institutes of Health.

US turns up pressure on Honduras coup government

TEGUCIGALPA, Honduras (AP)—The United States is turning up pressure on the Honduran government installed by a coup—and the businessmen who support it—warning that they will face severe sanctions if ousted President Manuel Zelaya is not restored to power.

U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton called interim President Roberto Micheletti to say there would be serious consequences if his government ignores international mediation for Zelaya's return.

Her call on Sunday came as talks mediated by Costa Rican President Oscar Arias stalled due to the refusal of Micheletti's delegates to accept demands for Zelaya's return.

State Department spokesman P.J. Crowley said that Clinton helped "helped him understand the potential consequences of a failure to take advantage of this mediation."

Honduran business leaders, meanwhile, say U.S. Ambassador Hugo

Llorens has called them into meetings to warn that Honduras—impoverished and highly dependent on exports to the United States—could face tough sanctions if the interim government continues to refuse Arias' compromise proposal for Zelaya to return as head of a coalition government.

The European Union added to the pressure on Monday by announcing it was suspending \$93.1 million (65.5 million euros) in aid to Honduras.

No government has recognized Micheletti, and the United Nations and Organization of American States have called for the return of Zelaya, who was arrested and hustled out of the country by the army on June 28.

But Micheletti vowed not to stand down—and implied that the United States is betraying one of its staunchest allies. Honduras allowed its territory to be used as a staging area for U.S.-backed Contra rebels in Nicaragua during the 1980s, and more recently it sent troops to Iraq.

WORLD BRIEFS

Police find 3 missing American hikers in Ecuador

QUITO, Ecuador (AP)—Rescuers found three U.S. college students Monday evening after they went missing during a weekend hike in Ecuador's northern Andes mountains.

The students, who were reported missing Sunday morning, were found about 7 p.m., Imbabura provincial Gov. Luis Guerra told The Associated Press. A police helicopter and two rescue teams on foot had been searching for the trio, who have been in the indigenous Ecuadorean village of Otava-

lo for nearly six weeks tutoring local children with the humanitarian group Village Education Project.

Fujimori sentenced to 7 1/2 years for embezzlement

LIMA, Peru (AP)—Former Peruvian President Alberto Fujimori was convicted of embezzlement and sentenced to 7 1/2 years in prison Monday after he admitted illegally paying his spy chief \$15 million in government funds. Fujimori sat expressionless in front of the three-judge panel as the verdict and sentence were read. He told the court he would

seek to nullify the ruling. The conviction is the third in less than two years for the ex-leader. He was sentenced in April to 25 years in prison for authorizing military death squads during his 10-year rule. Earlier, he was convicted of abuse of power and sentenced to six years for an illegal search.

Bosnian Serbs convicted of burning Muslims alive

THE HAGUE, Netherlands (AP)—A U.N. war crimes court convicted two Bosnian Serb cousins Monday for a 1992 killing spree that included locking scores of Muslims in two houses

and burning them alive. Yugoslav war crimes tribunal judge Patrick Robinson said burning at least 119 Muslims to death in the eastern Bosnian town of Visegrad "exemplified the worst acts of inhumanity that one person may inflict on others." He sentenced Milan Lukic to life in prison and Sredoje Lukic to 30 years.

Robinson said Milan Lukic was the ringleader in both incidents, helping herd victims into the houses, setting the fires and shooting those who fled the flames. The judgment said his cousin Sredoje Lukic aided and abetted in one of the blazes

Mexican police nab alleged trafficker with \$3.6M

TIJUANA, Mexico (AP)—Mexican soldiers have arrested a suspected drug trafficker in the border city of Tijuana who was carrying jewelry, narcotics and \$3.6 million in cash. The Defense Department says Luis Ibarra belongs to a cell in charge of making and trafficking methamphetamine for alleged drug kingpin Teodoro Garcia Simental. Ibarra was detained Saturday. Garcia Simental has been waging a bloody battle against his former bosses in the Arellano Felix drug cartel.

Campus Life

Student loan programs make debt less debilitating

By DANIEL DE VISE
(C) 2009, THE WASHINGTON POST

Suzie Dundas is at that stage of life when student loans loom larger than car leases or electricity bills. The \$390 monthly payments seem to stretch into perpetuity. They are her largest monthly obligation aside from her rent, which Dundas has decided she can no longer afford. She is about to move back in with her parents.

Dundas, 23, is a new graduate entering a stricken job market with a master's degree, \$30,000 in debt and far less earning potential than she expected when she borrowed the money. She works part time for the State Department.

"When I get paid, I think, 'All right, I have \$500,'" she said. "But then I remember I have huge loans, and it's really just, 'All right, I have negative \$29,500.' And then I go eat ramen for dinner."

This summer brings a measure of relief. As of July 1, student borrowers can cap their monthly payments at a modest sum determined by income and family size. A second initiative, the Public Service Loan Forgiveness Program, will erase student debt entirely after 10 years for graduates who work for government or various nonprofit organizations.

Together, the programs amount to "the broadest and most expansive set of provisions we've ever had" to ease student debt, said Terry Hartle, senior vice president of the American Council on Education, an association of college administrators based in Washington.

"It's huge for students," said Carmen Berkley, president of the United States Student Association, an advocacy group in Washington. "You put somebody in a situation where they're not making too much money, and they're making \$200 to \$300 in monthly payments, and you're setting them up for failure."

Berkley graduated from the University of Pittsburgh two years ago with \$80,000 in loans and, as a 24-year-old nonprofit leader, is "definitely not making enough to make my \$800 to \$900 payments."

Authors of the legislation cannot pre-

dict how many of the nation's 30 million student borrowers might qualify. Income-based repayment is available to borrowers with any federally guaranteed loan. Loan forgiveness is open only to those with direct federal loans. Neither program applies to private loans, a smaller but critical share of student aid.

Help might be coming for new bor-

Chris Lindstrom, higher-education program director at U.S. PIRG, a public interest advocacy group based in Washington. The share of students graduating in debt has risen from less than one-third in the early 1990s to about two-thirds today, she said.

Dundas amassed her debt at the University of Maryland and George Wash-

ington University, where she received a master's in media and public affairs this spring.

"My thought process, in retrospect, was rather naive," she said. "Because I had a master's, I thought I'd come out earning \$40,000 to \$50,000 a year, because that's what people were telling me. It's a funny joke now."

Her part-time job barely covers her loan payments, let alone her \$700 rent. She will soon return to her family's suburban home and begin a two-hour daily commute to Washington.

Dundas has applied for 140 other jobs to supplement her State Department income and been turned down at every one, even the chance to wait tables at Applebee's.

"I have a master's degree, I interned on Capitol Hill, I helped my professor write an encyclopedia, I speak two languages, I had a 3.7 GPA and I can't find more than a part-time job," she said.

Under income-based repayment, her

ernment employment, Dundas would qualify for loan forgiveness, her federal debt erased after 10 years. Both programs were enacted in 2007 as part of the College Cost Reduction and Access Act. Graduates interested in payment caps can contact their lenders directly. There is no formal application yet for the loan forgiveness program, whose 10-year clock began ticking in 2007.

The programs won't necessarily help those who have borrowed the most. Students tend to load up on private debt after borrowing all they can in federal loans, which are subject to lending limits.

For instance, they won't help Mikaela Rossman Clark, 30, who finished law school at the University of Maryland in 2006 with \$90,000 in private loans and \$30,000 in federal loans.

Rossman Clark "did all of law school in loans, with the anticipation, of course, that I would go to a big firm afterwards," she said. Instead, she went to a small firm after she and her husband made "some quality-of-life decisions." They had a child. Then, last January, the firm stopped paying a straight salary and instead offered 30 percent of what she billed clients.

"Financially, it made more sense for me to stay home with my son," she said.

The new loan programs might prove more useful to people who are "being squeezed out of socially valuable but lower-paying careers, like teaching and social work," said Lindstrom, of U.S. PIRG.

Take Andrew Merki, who entered the University of Indiana as a business major. Instead, he'll graduate in 2011 with a newfound passion for public service—and \$70,000 or \$80,000 in debt. He has launched a PIRG affiliate at his university.

"You have a vision in your mind to go out and change the world," he said. "At the same time, there's the harsh reality that you've got thousands and thousands in loans to repay. As much as you'd like the decision to be based on values and ideals, it comes down to money a lot of the time."



Mikaela Rossman Clark, 30, finished law school with \$90,000 in private loans and \$30,000 in federal loans "with the anticipation, of course, that I would go to a big firm afterwards." Instead, she went to a small firm that stopped paying a straight salary. This summer brings a measure of relief for student borrowers via programs that will help ease the burden of student debt. Rossman Clark is shown with 11-month-old son Falon Clark at home in Lusby, Md.

rowers, as well. On Tuesday, a House committee takes up the Student Aid and Fiscal Responsibility Act, which proposes to expand federal lending and simplify the application process.

Student borrowing has risen sharply in recent years to keep pace with spiraling tuition. Total education lending has more than doubled in the past decade, in inflation-adjusted dollars, from \$41 billion in the 1997-98 academic year to \$85 billion in 2007-08, according to the nonprofit College Board. The average borrower leaves college owing more than \$22,000.

"The reality is that students are relying on loans to pay for college," said

ington University, where she received a master's in media and public affairs this spring.

"My thought process, in retrospect, was rather naive," she said. "Because I had a master's, I thought I'd come out earning \$40,000 to \$50,000 a year, because that's what people were telling me. It's a funny joke now."

Her part-time job barely covers her loan payments, let alone her \$700 rent. She will soon return to her family's suburban home and begin a two-hour daily commute to Washington.

Dundas has applied for 140 other jobs to supplement her State Depart-

ments could drop to zero. The law caps monthly payments at 15 percent of a borrower's "discretionary" income, all earnings above 150 percent of the poverty line. At about \$15,000 a year, Dundas has no discretionary income. She learned this by running figures through a calculator at IBRinfo.org, set up by the nonprofit Project on Student Debt.

That is not to say Dundas's debt would go away. It would remain, and continue to accrue interest, until she made enough to resume payments. The program forgives lingering debt after 25 years, a lifetime in the student-lending world.

But should she enter full-time gov-

Obama touts community college spending plan

By PETER NICHOLAS
(C) 2009, LOS ANGELES TIMES

WARREN, Mich.—With unemployment continuing to climb, President Barack Obama on Tuesday announced a plan to pump \$12 billion into U.S. community colleges over the next 10 years to help struggling workers prepare for new careers, saying a better educated work force is critical to long-term prosperity.

"Time and again, when we have placed our bet for the future on education, we have prospered as a result—by tapping the incredible innovative and generative potential of a skilled American work force," Obama said.

In his appearance here at Macomb Community College and earlier in the day in Washington, Obama sought to

draw a direct connection between recovery from the current economic crisis and a broad array of administration initiatives, including education, the stimulus package and overhauling the health care system.

Before flying to Michigan, Obama acknowledged that unemployment may "tick up for several months," but he said his prescriptions, taken together, offered the best hope for creating jobs.

And here, in a state where the jobless rate tops 14 percent compared with the national average of 9.5 percent, the president pointed to the health care debate raging in Congress and said stabilizing medical costs was critical to restoring prosperity.

"Now is the time to build a firmer, stronger foundation for growth that will not only withstand future econom-

ic storms, but that will help us thrive," he said on the Macomb campus. "To build that foundation, we have to slow the growth of health care costs that are driving us into debt."

He took a barely veiled shot at Republicans, who were in power when the recession began but who have relentlessly attacked his recovery plans.

"I love these folks who helped get us in this mess and then suddenly say, well, this is Obama's economy. That's fine. Give it to me," the president said. "My job is to solve problems, not to stand on the sidelines and harp and gripe."

Obama said: "The hard truth is that some of the jobs that have been lost in the auto industry and elsewhere won't be coming back. They are casualties of a changing economy." He argued that community colleges can play an important role in helping displaced workers build new careers but that

they need more resources at a time when state and local budget problems can lead to capped enrollments and fewer course offerings.

Obama's education plan would provide funds for new construction, online education and competitive grants.

About 6 million people are enrolled in community colleges in the U.S., but nearly half fail to complete degree and certificate programs, according to government figures.

The administration seeks to boost the number of graduates by 5 million over the next decade.

Obama, apparently mindful of polls showing that many Americans are worried about the steep rise in government spending to combat the recession, noted that the school aid "isn't adding to the deficit."

Rather, the money will come from ending subsidies to banks and private student loan companies, he said.



Obama

Obama's appearance here came as Republicans pounded the argument that his economic policies were faltering. Rep. Dave Camp, R-Mich., held a news conference Tuesday timed with the president's visit to criticize his performance.

"Look, the stimulus bill hasn't worked, and it was sold as something that had to be done immediately, that would create jobs immediately, that it would have an immediate effect," Camp said.

Lashing back, the Democratic National Committee alerted reporters to a news release issued by the congressman's office in April touting a \$12.7 million grant for a local airport—money that was part of the stimulus program. In the release, Camp said the project would "stimulate the area's economy, help create new long term job growth for the region and improve the airport experience for area travelers."

After leaving Michigan, Obama flew to St. Louis to throw out the first ball at Major League Baseball's All-Star Game.

Life & Style

Jackson's dad suggests foul play in son's death



In this video frame grab released by CNN/Larry King Live showing Larry King, left, interviewing Joe Jackson, right, on Monday July 20, 2009.

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Joe Jackson said in a televised interview Monday that he's taken his son Michael's death "very hard" and believes the doctor who took care of him could be behind the singer's demise.

The patriarch of the Jackson family appeared on "Larry King Live" and implied his son's personal doctor, Dr. Conrad Murray, may be to blame for the death.

"The doctor gave him something to make him rest, and then he don't wake up no more. Something is wrong there," Jackson said. He did not refer to Murray by name.

A phone listing for Murray could not be found, and two messages left with his attorney, Edward Chernoff, on Monday night were not immedi-

ately returned.

The family is awaiting the coroner's toxicology report to determine how Michael Jackson died at the age of 50. The results are expected next week.

Investigators obtained a search warrant and removed several bottles of the powerful anesthetic propofol from Jackson's home, according to a person with knowledge of the investigation. The person is not authorized to speak publicly and requested anonymity.

Jackson suggested Murray couldn't be found following his son's death on June 25.

"This doctor, he ran away. They had to look for him three days to find him. To me that is foul play," Jackson said.

Police interviewed Murray two days

after Jackson's death. Authorities say he is not a suspect, though the cardiologist is a key figure in the investigation because he was with Jackson in the mansion and tried to revive him. His car has been seized after police said they believe the vehicle may contain drugs or other evidence.

Wearing a black fedora and a gold medallion of Africa hanging around his neck, Jackson appeared on the show with promoter Leonard Rowe. When asked by King how he's dealt with his son's death, Joe Jackson replied, "I took it very hard."

Jackson added he didn't know where his son's body is being kept and hasn't seen the results from a second autopsy performed on Michael Jackson at the family's request.

Sony bids \$50M for Jackson rehearsal film

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Sony Corp.'s movie studio has bid \$50 million to acquire the worldwide distribution rights to a film based on rehearsal footage for Michael Jackson's "This Is It" comeback concert series, according to a person familiar with the bid.

The person said Monday that the bid came after several studios, including Paramount, Universal and 20th Century Fox, were shown footage starting early last week. The person spoke on condition of anonymity because the bidding had not been completed. None of the studios would comment on the record.

The winning studio would produce the film with Jackson's concert promoter, AEG Live, and

Jackson material worldwide. An estimated 31 million viewers in the U.S. alone watched the Jackson memorial service live earlier this month, according to Nielsen Media Research. That's just shy of the 33 million U.S. viewers who watched Princess Diana's funeral.



In this March 17, 2005 file photo, Pop star Michael Jackson arrives at the Santa Barbara County Courthouse in Santa Maria, Calif., to begin Jackson's trial on charges of child molestation.

"This type of a story, if put together right, could be very compelling and draw a very, very wide audience," said Mark Fleischer, an entertainment attorney with Venable LLP and former executive at MGM Studios.

The estate and AEG Live are also negotiating with several television networks and pay-per-view outlets on a TV special that would be a stage show featuring Jackson's

his estate. It would go a long way to helping AEG Live recoup some of the \$30 million to \$32 million it spent producing the concert before Jackson died June 25.

The bidding was reported earlier by the Los Angeles Times and industry blogger Nikki Finke.

Sony Pictures has a leg up on other bidders because Sony Music distributes Jackson's music and is in a 50-50 partnership with his estate in Sony/ATV Music Publishing. Sony's bid is on par with the cost of making a mid-range budget movie, and is offset by the fact that the Sony group of companies would benefit from the music licensing rights attached to the film.

There is also massive interest in

music and dancing. It would be directed by "This Is It" director Kenny Ortega.

The selling price being discussed for the rights to show the TV special is also in the tens of millions of dollars.

General Electric Co.'s NBC has been in talks on the TV show, but the concept, air date and cost for the rights has not been finalized, said NBC spokeswoman Rebecca Marks.

"We have no deal for the rights to the Michael Jackson special," Marks said.

The special administrators of Jackson's estate, attorney John Branca and former music executive John McClain, have been moving quickly to secure Jackson's assets and cut deals to capitalize on the surge in interest in the pop star since he died.

Even in death, McCourt's 'Ashes' divides Limerick

DUBLIN (AP)—Bitterness over Frank McCourt's memoir "Angela's Ashes" still smolders in his hometown of Limerick. Residents of the western Irish city have never agreed whether his Pulitzer-winning account of childhood survival amid soul-crushing poverty was more fact than fiction.

Limerick City Hall opened a book of condolence in memory of its most fa-

mous writer Monday, the day after McCourt's death and 13 years after "Angela's Ashes" put the city by the River Shannon on the literary map.

The vocal minority who have long branded McCourt a self-promoting liar kept a respectful silence—but observers wondered how long this restraint would last.

"The book was a delight and 80 percent true," said Tony Browne, a Limerick amateur historian who has found himself caught between two verbally warring camps in his past career as a local radio host. "Some people will keep saying it's all lies. They'll go to their deathbeds still in denial."

Official Ireland offered united condolences for the 78-year-old writer, who at age 19 left behind a Limerick that—through a combination of

wretched housing, sanitation, sickness and hunger—had claimed the lives of three young siblings.

"Limerick is very proud of, and will never forget, Frank McCourt," said the mayor, Kevin Kiely, who plans to attend the U.S. funeral service and expressed hopes that McCourt's family would set aside some of the author's own ashes to be scattered on the Shannon. McCourt himself once expressed that hope—later adding the barb that he hoped his ashes would pollute the river.

For many locals, McCourt's memoirs have forever tarnished their own families' reputations and their parents' sentimental memories of a happy, harmonious Limerick.

The Limerick Leader—which in the past published criticisms of McCourt, once reprinting pictures of him as a

smiling Limerick boy scout and asking "Is this the picture of misery?"—led the public eulogies Monday.

It reprinted pictures of McCourt's last visit to the city in August 2008, when the author admitted to mixed feelings about the impact his book had on local sensitivities.

"I've had such a turbulent relationship with the city," the newspaper quoted him as saying. "It's what I had to write about when I finally started writing after teaching for 30 years. I had to get it out of my system, but you never do. People say it's a catharsis, but it's not. Look at me—I'm back here again."

The author's younger brother Malachy said last week that, even from his Manhattan death bed, McCourt was ruminating on "his unfinished emotional business with Limerick."



In this March 13, 1998 file photo, Irish-American and Pulitzer-Prize-winning author Frank McCourt, author of "Angela's Ashes," listens as he is introduced at Bronx Community College of the City University of New York, in New York, where he was one of two people honored at the college's annual Irish Heritage celebration.

Fans support Paula Abdul, but would 'Idol' go on?

NEW YORK (AP)—The clock is winding down to the judges' round of "American Idol" auditions—next month, the gates will be opened for a new batch of hopefuls. They'd do well to come prepared: Paula Abdul might not be around to dole out much-needed hugs and kind words of encouragement.

The kooky, feel-good judge, whose sweetness tempers the tart-tongued Simon Cowell, is reportedly unhappy about her status on the top-rated talent competition—and she wants her frustration known. Abdul's manager, David Sonenberg, dropped an "Idol" bombshell last Friday when he told The Los Angeles Times' Web site that the long-time judge may not be returning to the upcoming ninth season.

The reason? According to Sonenberg, she had not yet received a proposal for a new contract.

"I find it under these circumstances particularly unusual; I think unnecessarily hurtful," said Sonenberg, who noted Abdul was "not a happy camper" as a result of stalled contract negotiations.

Abdul seems to be healing her wounds on Twitter. After Sonenberg's public statements, a campaign of support sprung up on the micro-blogging site, where "KeepPaula" became a hot trending topic. Among those joining the effort were former "Idol" contestants Anoop Desai, Danny



In this March 5, 2009 file photo, "American Idol" judge Paula Abdul arrives at the American Idol Top 13 Party in Los Angeles.

Gokey and Syesha Mercado.

Mercado, a finalist on season seven, tweeted: "No Paula No American Idol."

Abdul, who has over 725,000 followers on the site, responded to her fans, gushing, "I'm actu-

ally moved 2 tears upon reading the enormous amount of tweets showing me your kindness, love, & undying support."

Meanwhile, host Ryan Seacrest is making bank. The media mogul signed a lucrative deal that keeps

him hosting "Idol" through 2012 as well as participating in new projects. The announcement, made last week, specified no dollar figure, although The Hollywood Reporter pegged the deal at \$45 million.

The other "Idol" judges are Simon Cowell, Randy Jackson and newcomer Kara DioGuardi. Representatives for Fox and the show's producers—19 Entertainment and FremantleMedia—declined to comment on Abdul's situation. Abdul's publicist, Jeff Ballard, directed The Associated Press to Sonenberg, who did not respond to requests for comment.

"She'll be fine. She'll be on the show," Cowell was quoted as telling "Extra" on Monday. "I don't get a lot of say. I've just made it clear that I want Paula on the show."

According to the entertainment news show, Seacrest said as far as he knows, "you'll see everybody back." Cowell agent Alan Berger and Seacrest spokeswoman Meredith O'Sullivan did not immediately respond to interview requests.

"The perturbing thing of this Paula Abdul news, of her not coming back, is the sort of implication that if Paula doesn't come back, does this mean that they're now relying on Kara to fill that third seat?" mused Michael Slezak, who blogs about "Idol" for Entertainment Weekly magazine's Web site.

Waller of '60s pop duo Peter and Gordon dies at 64

HARTFORD, Conn. (AP)—Gordon Waller of the pop duo Peter and Gordon, who were part of the 1960s British Invasion and had a string of hits including several written by their friend Paul McCartney, has died. He was 64.

Waller died Friday at The William W. Backus Hospital in Norwich, Conn., nursing supervisor Nity Oris confirmed Monday. The duo's Web site says Waller, who lived in Ledyard, Conn., went into cardiac arrest Thursday night, and the state medical examiner's office lists his cause of death as cardiovascular disease.

Waller and Peter Asher hit No. 1 on music charts around the world in 1964 with their debut single "A World Without Love." McCartney, who at the time was dating Asher's sister, actress Jane Asher, wrote the song.

The duo also hit the charts with other songs written by McCartney, including "Nobody I Know" and "I Don't Want to See You Again." Although McCartney wrote the songs, they were jointly credited to him and John Lennon, as was all their work at the time.

Peter and Gordon's other hits included their versions of Del Shannon's "I Go to Pieces" and the Buddy Holly song "True Love Ways," both in 1965; "Lady Godiva," 1966; and "Knight in Rusty Armour" reached the top 20 in 1967.

"Woman," another McCartney song not to be confused with Lennon's later song of the same name—also reached the top 20 in 1966.

According to the book "The Beatles: The Biography" by Bob Spitz, McCartney had started writing "A World Without Love" as a teenager. By the time the Beatles reached the top in 1963-64, it wasn't up to their current standard, and it had also been rejected by another singer as "too soft."

McCartney then rewrote it a bit and gave it to Asher. He and Waller "sang it with a pleasant laid-back yearning that transformed the song into a perfectly acceptable pop hit," Spitz wrote.



In this July 28, 1964 file photo, British pop singers Gordon Waller, right, and Peter Asher leap in the air upon their return to London after a successful American tour.



In this photo taken on Sept. 24, 2007, former news anchor Walter Cronkite arrives at the Metropolitan Opera 2007-08 season opening gala.

Cronkite's voice will still introduce CBS newscast

NEW YORK (AP)—CBS says the voice of Walter Cronkite will continue to be heard announcing the "CBS Evening News with Katie Couric."

Cronkite recorded the introduction to the newscast he anchored for nearly two decades in 2006, when Couric became anchor.

Immediately following his death Friday at age 92, the network had planned to retire the recording but reconsidered. Members of Cronkite's family gave their blessing to the decision to continue using his voice, says CBS News spokesman Jeff Ballabon.

Cronkite, who came to be called "the most trusted man in America," anchored "The CBS Evening News" from 1962 until 1981. That's when Dan Rather took over the broadcast.

Beastie Boy Adam Yauch has 'very treatable' cancer

NEW YORK (AP)—In an upbeat video, Beastie Boy Adam "MCA" Yauch announced via the group's Web site that he has a "very treatable" cancerous tumor in his salivary gland and a nearby lymph node.

As a result, the band announced Monday it is canceling its tour dates and postponing the release of its upcoming album, "Hot Sauce Committee Part 1."

"About two months ago I started feeling a little lump in my throat," Yauch, seated next to fellow Beastie Boy Adam "Ad-Rock" Horowitz, said in his video message on the site. "I started to think I should talk to my doctor ... and he sent me to a specialist, and

they did tests, and I actually have a form of cancer."

Yauch, 43, said he will likely undergo surgery next week, followed up by some form of radiation.

"The good news is that they did scans of my whole body and it's only localized this one place, and it's not in a place that affects my voice, so that's nice," he said with a laugh. "This is something that's very treatable in most cases, they're able to completely get rid of it and people don't have continuing problems with it and it's not anywhere else in my body."

Yauch is not only part of the pioneering rap trio, but has also emerged as a film producer.



In this Oct. 15, 2008 file photo, musician Adam Yauch attends a Cinema Society hosted screening of "Synecdoche New York" in New York.

First Death Anniversary

In celebration of his first year anniversary when our Heavenly Father lovingly called our father home to his everlasting life in paradise.

VICENTE AYUYU ATALIG
Better Known as "Ben"

We, the Family invite all our relatives and Friends to join us in Prayers as we commemorate the First Death Anniversary on the Passing of our beloved Husband, Father, and Grand Father.

Daily and Nightly Mass are being offered as follows:

San Francisco De Borja Church

July 23-28, 2009 Mass will be offered at 6:00 a.m.

July 29, 2009 Mass will be offered at 6:00 p.m.

July 30-31, 2009 Mass will be offered at 6:00 a.m.

San Isidro Church

July 23-25, 2009 Holy Rosary will be offered at 6:30 p.m.

July 26, 2009 Holy Mass will be offered at 8:00 a.m. followed by Holy Rosary.

July 27-30, 2009 Holy Rosary will be offered at 6:30 p.m. followed by Holy Mass.

On the final day, Friday, July 31, 2009 Mass will be offered at 6:00 a.m. at San Francisco De Borja followed by Responso at the Cemetery.

Breakfast will be served immediately after Responso at the Round house.

Your Presence, thoughts and Prayers are Greatly Appreciated.

Un Dangkulu Na Si Yu'us Ma'ase

Consolacion Apatang Atalig,
Children and Families

Chris Brown apologizes for Rihanna beating

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Chris Brown on Monday publicly apologized for the beating of Rihanna, saying in a two-minute video that he's still seeking help and wants to live his life as a role model.

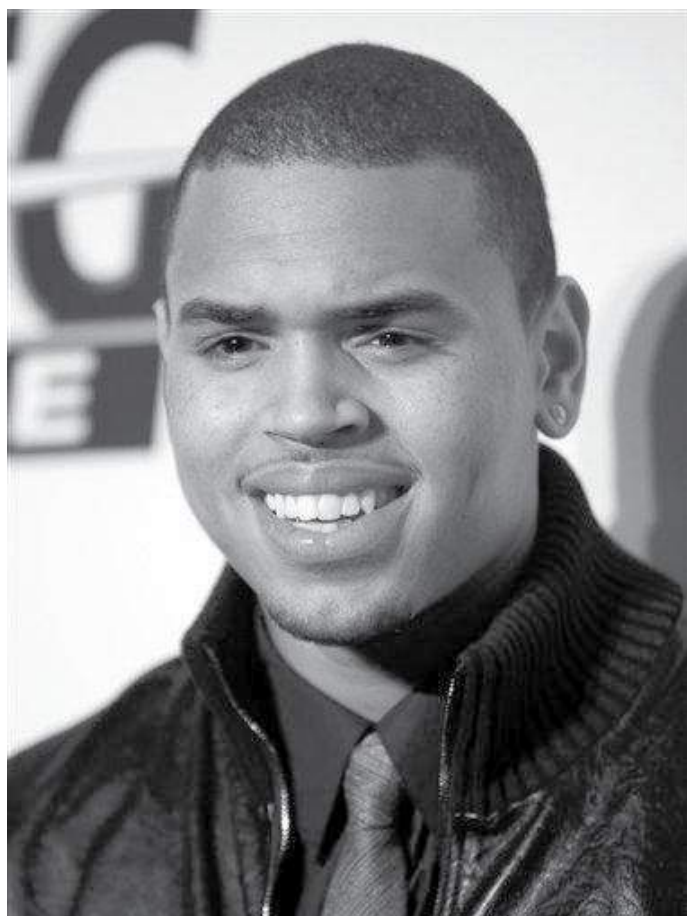
Brown released the video on his Web site apologizing to fans and saying he is sad and ashamed of his conduct. He also tells viewers that he has repeatedly apologized to Rihanna.

Brown was arrested Feb. 8, hours after he fought with his then-girlfriend in a rented sports car after a pre-Grammy party. According to a police affidavit, Brown tried to push the 21-year-old Barbados-born singer from the car and repeatedly hit her and choked her.

He left the scene and later turned himself in to authorities during the Grammy Awards, where he and Rihanna were slated to perform. He was later charged with assault likely to cause great bodily harm and making criminal threats. He pleaded guilty to the felony assault charge last month and faces sentencing Aug. 5.

He is slated to serve five years of probation and perform six months of community labor.

On the video, Brown calls the



In this Feb. 7, 2009 file photo, Chris Brown arrives at the Clive Davis pre-Grammy party in Beverly Hills, Calif.

beating "the incident." He vows to conduct interviews and answer some questions about the beating, but said he wanted to

speak directly to fans first.

"I felt it was time you that heard directly from me that I am sorry," he says on the video.

He calls his conduct "inexcusable" and says his mother—who has attended some of his court hearings—has taught him better. He mentions that he witnessed domestic violence growing up.

"I saw firsthand what uncontrolled rage can do," he tells viewers. "I have sought and am continuing to seek help to ensure that what occurred in February can never happen again."

Brown says on the video he wanted to speak out earlier, but was advised not to by his lawyer.

He acknowledges that the beating has hurt his reputation. Although he doesn't mention it, Brown lost sponsorship deals, radio stations stopped playing his music and other artists condemned him after the attack.

Before the beating, Brown was considered a squeaky-clean R&B up-and-comer. He rose to prominence after the 2005 hit "Run It!" He was nominated for a Grammy for "No Air" with Jordin Sparks and named Billboard's top artist in 2008.

"I intend to live my life so that I am truly worth of the term 'role model,'" Brown says at the video's conclusion.

Friends opt out of couple's spouse-swapping parties

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



DEAR ABBY: Our friends "Andy" and "Corinne" live out of state in Michigan. We visit them about twice a year. Our visits are planned weeks in advance. The last three times, on Saturday night they hosted a "swingers party."

The first time it happened we thought it was a joke, until the guests—after "tossing back a few"—started picking partners. We saw them begin to caress one another, then start going into other rooms and outside. One of the attendees came on to my wife. We informed him we're not swingers. His response? He told us it was OK to "watch" the first time or two.

Abby, we're not prudes, but we feel uncomfortable visiting these friends. We now return to our bedroom when the swingers arrive. In contrast, when Andy and Corinne come to visit us in Tennessee, we have dinner, play cards and go to church on Sunday.

We have spoken to them about this. They tell us they "keep their relationship fresh" this way. We don't want to lose them as friends, but we don't know what to do. Can you help?

SATISFIED WITH EACH OTHER

DEAR SATISFIED: I'll try. Because you like Andy and Corinne every other day of the week when you visit them, schedule an outside activity — dinner and a movie, a play—anything that will get you out of their den of iniquity on Saturday night. Either that, or leave for home on Friday.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: After 13 years of marriage, my wife has stopped wearing her wedding rings. First she said her fingers had shrunk and her rings kept falling off. Then she claimed that the "golf club had bent them." Now she refuses to wear them out of spite because I told her the rings are a sign of commitment, and I feel she's "advertising" that she's not married.

Am I reading too much into this? In many ways she is still a dutiful wife, but this ring thing is becoming an issue. Any pearls of wisdom?

FEELING INSECURE IN MIDWAY, GA.

DEAR FEELING INSECURE: Your problem isn't the "ring thing." It's that your wife is lying to you and acting out of spite. It is very important that you quickly get to the root of what's really bothering her because the rings are only a symptom of an underlying problem.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: My wife leaves knives lying around our house—and not just on countertops. She also leaves the dishwasher wide open and then goes to take a shower.

We have a 4-year-old son who is curious about everything. I have tried to no avail to get her to understand that what she's doing is dangerous, but it turns into a fight, or she says I'm scolding her and treating her like a child.

Please help. I don't want anything to happen to our son, and I can't seem to get my wife to pay attention.

WORRIED SICK, RICHMOND, VA.

DEAR WORRIED SICK: She may be careless, or she may have some kind of disorder. Your wife really should be evaluated to determine what's going on. If she resists the suggestion, please remind her that if her child is hurt by a sharp object left lying around or within his reach, he will probably need to be taken to the emergency room. And the doctors there will be required to report his injury to the authorities—even if it doesn't kill him or maim him for life.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Abby shares more than 100 of her favorite recipes in two booklets: "Abby's Favorite Recipes" and "More Favorite Recipes by Dear Abby." Send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$12 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby – Cookbooklet Set, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in price.)

Bruce Lee's siblings authorize Chinese biopics

HONG KONG (AP)—Bruce Lee's older sister and younger brother have authorized a Chinese company to make a series of biographical films about the late kung fu icon, saying they want to produce a historically accurate account of their brother's life.

Phoebe Lee and Robert Lee appeared at a signing ceremony with J.A. Media in Beijing on Monday, 36 years to the day after Bruce Lee died in Hong Kong at age 32 from swelling of the brain.

Lee became a source of Chinese pride by portraying characters who defended the Chinese and the working class from oppressors in films like "Return of the Dragon."

It wasn't immediately clear who will play Lee in the film series.

Producer Manfred Wong said the company plans at least three installments, with the first to tackle Lee's teenage years, adding he wanted to focus more on the late actor's personality.

"There will be kung fu ... But more importantly, we want to portray the real Bruce Lee. What is the real Bruce Lee like? He was very humorous. He was very obedient to his parents. He was very kind to his family," Wong said, according to footage of the ceremony on the Chinese news Web site Sina.com.

Robert Lee said he wanted to give an au-

thoritative account of his brother's life.

"We've read many books and seen many movies about Bruce Lee, but there are many inaccuracies in them. They made up things," he said, without referring to specific works or factual mistakes.

"I'm more than 70 years old. I'm old. I want to do something for my younger brother—to promote Bruce Lee's life story," Phoebe Lee said.

Most recently, Chinese state broadcaster CCTV aired a 50-part prime-time series about Lee last year.

Wong did not say how much the movies will cost. Calls to the company Tuesday seeking more detail went unanswered.

Police: Jeffrey Donovan arrested, suspected of DUI



In this image released by the Miami Beach Police Dept., actor Jeffrey Donovan is seen in this booking photograph released by the Miami Beach, Fla. Police Dept. Donovan was charged with DUI on Sunday July 12, 2009.

MIAMI BEACH, Fla. (AP)—Miami Beach police say they arrested "Burn Notice" star Jef-

frey Donovan on suspicion of drunken driving.

The arrest report says an officer pulled Donovan over on July 12 after noticing that he swerved his car to avoid hitting the police car from behind. The officer reported that the actor's eyes appeared bloodshot and watery.

The actor of the popular USA Network series was arrested after failing a field sobriety test. The arrest report says Donovan refused to take a Breathalyzer test.

The 41-year-old actor, who worked alongside actress Angelina Jolie in the 2008 film, "Changeling," was released several hours later on \$1,000 bail.

His publicist declined to comment. A phone message left with a network spokeswoman was not immediately returned.

Shaq to star in TV sports reality series

CLEVELAND (AP) -- Shaquille O'Neal would deluge Michael Phelps in a cannonball competition. What about a race across the pool?

We'll see.

The NBA superstar will star in "Shaq Vs.," a TV series where the All-Star center will challenge top athletes in their respective sports. During one episode, which debuts on Aug. 8 on ABC, Shaq will swim against Olympic superstar Phelps.

O'Neal, now with the Cleveland Cavaliers, also will try his football skills against Pittsburgh quarterback Ben Roethlisberger, box retired world champion Oscar De La Hoya, trade tennis volleys with Wimbledon champ Serena Williams and play volleyball against



In this Feb. 13, 2009 file photo, Phoenix Sun's center Shaquille O'Neal watches the NBA All-Star Rookie Challenge basketball game in Phoenix.

Olympic gold medalists Kerri Walsh and Misty May-Treanor.

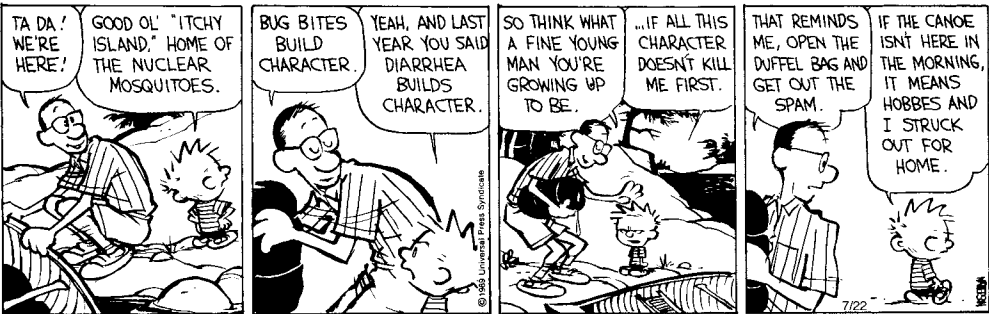
O'Neal will negotiate a handcap with his opponents and train for one week leading up to each challenge.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson **Garfield®**

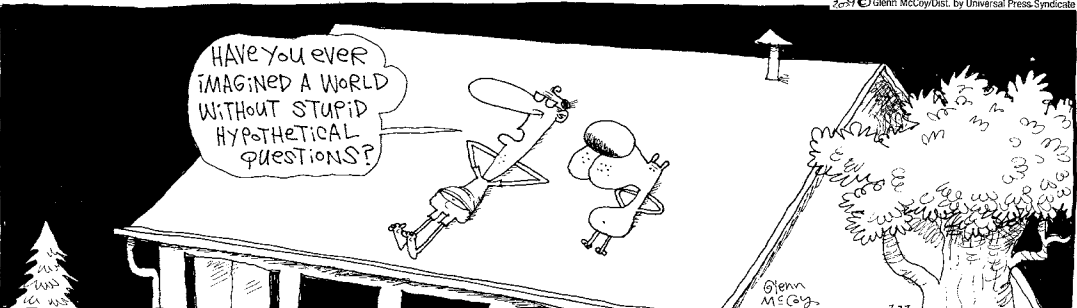
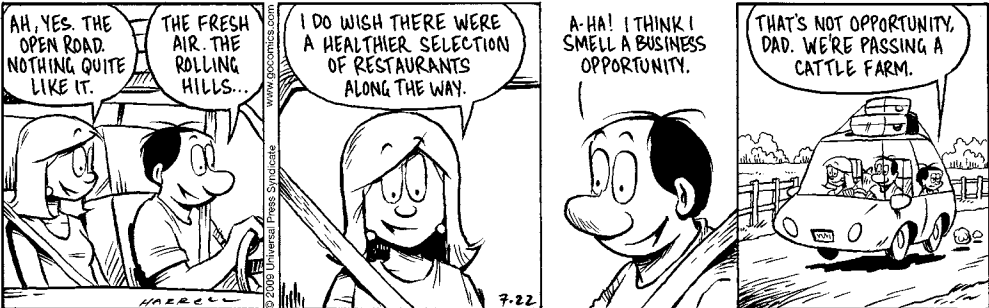
By Jim Davis



Adam@home

By Bryan Basset **The Duplex**

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 "Twilight of the —"

5 Vanna's companion

8 Highlander

12 Cruising

13 Ipanema is there

14 Plankton component

15 It'll get you nowhere

17 Bailout acronym

18 Page numbers

19 Cheers up

21 Type squares

22 "I advise against it"

23 Work unit

26 Go up and down

28 Relinquish

31 Body powder

33 Zero

35 Algonquian language

36 Texas cook-off dish

DOWN

1 Big fishing hook

2 Norway's capital

3 Trans-action abbr.

4 Composer Erik

5 Apply fake fin-gernails

6 Melody

7 Tinkered (with)

8 Evil

9 Making a commo-tion

10 Shrek is one

11 Eaves-droppers' equipment

16 "Who's buried in Grant's —?"

20 Myrna of Holly-wood

23 List-ending abbr.

24 "Go, team!"

25 Tinsel-like

27 Auction action

29 Shelter moisture

30 Morning

32 Wash

34 Humor-ous hoax

37 Hostel

39 Zealous group

42 Crusoe's creator

44 Partners

45 Has bills

46 Converse

48 Holler

49 Gaelic

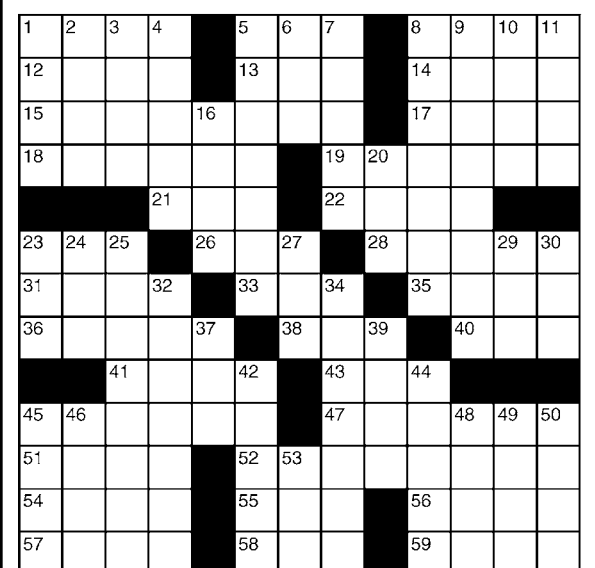
50 Turned blue?

53 Whopper

Solution time: 21 mins.

O	K	R	A	S	P	A	M	A	R	S
D	A	U	B	H	U	G	E	X	I	T
D	Y	N	A	M	I	T	E	N	I	C
S	O	T	A	N	T	O	N	S	E	T
			C	R	Y	B	O	O		
A	B	B	E	Y	J	O	H	N	J	A
S	E	A	L	C	O	X	I	O	W	A
H	E	A	L	T	H	Y	S	T	E	E
			U	R	I	S	E	E		
S	C	A	L	Y	S	I	R	L	S	D
M	A	G	I	P	A	R	A	S	I	T
O	M	I	T	U	K	E	S	A	U	
G	E	N	E	P	E	N	W	A	Y	S

Yesterday's answer 7-22



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Rufus Wainwright, 36; Albert Brooks, 62; Danny Glover, 63; Alex Trebek, 69

Happy Birthday: You must take advantage of every opportunity that comes your way. Don't limit yourself by taking on too much. Focus on the most important factors and develop whatever you need to stabilize your future. An emotional plea may help you bypass a long waiting list that has the potential to hold you hostage. Your numbers are 4, 9, 13, 24, 29, 38, 46

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Calm down and let things develop. You will be able to use your charm to get the attention of people who have something to contribute to your cause. Take what's being offered but know that everything has a price tag. ★★★

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Someone who is being secretive may try to involve you in something dubious. Keep everything out in the open so you cannot be held responsible for the actions of someone else. A change of heart is apparent. ★★★

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Get your priorities straight. Don't let complaints cause you to lose focus or fall short of your goals. A jealous peer must be stopped before disrupting your plans. You should take care of matters yourself. ★★★★★

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): You can develop a project you are working on but don't let others view what you have produced or someone is likely to copy you. You have to add more detail and perfect your ideas before you present what you have to offer. ★★

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): A chance to make some money through contracts, settlements, insurance or even inheritance is likely. Travel to an unusual destination and pick up some ideas you can develop. An unusual offer will catch you off guard. ★★★★★

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Take time for the activities, events and hobbies you most enjoy. You deserve a break that will rejuvenate, motivate and stimulate you. Pamper yourself and you will feel confident and ready to face any competition. ★★★★★

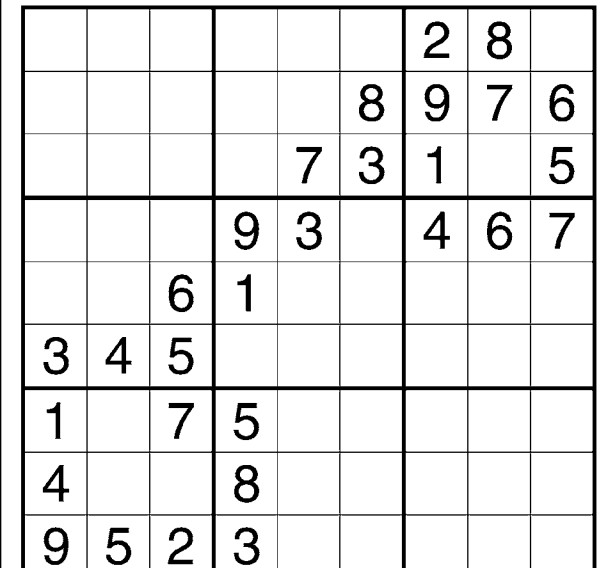
TAURUS (April 20-May 20): You will be under fire and lose control if you force your will on others. Don't make changes that can influence your personal or home life. Someone may be trying to back you into a corner in order to make you look bad. ★★

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Love is on the rise and a chance to meet some interesting people and join in activities that you find challenging and exciting will lead to new opportunities. A couple of changes made to your living quarters will make you more comfortable and give you incentive to develop a new pastime. ★★★★★

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Don't give out any information that may incriminate you and, at the same time, consider what you are doing before you jeop-

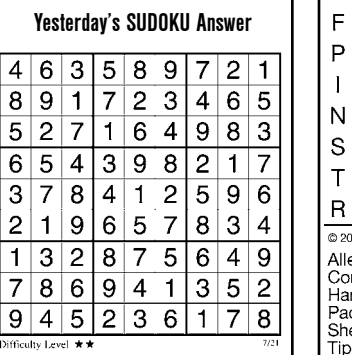
SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Green



Difficulty Level ★★★ 7/22

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.



Difficulty Level ★★ 7/21

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Someone may try to fool you into thinking you have the upper hand. Do your research carefully and you will discover that what's being offered isn't anything you cannot do on your own. Take care of your health. ★★★

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): You will be torn between what you want to do and what you have to do. Emotions will be hard to control and will make your life complicated. Love is prominent and should lead to a better relationship. ★★★

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Don't give out too much information. As soon as you trust someone else to do your job, something will go wrong. Someone you think is interested in you is sending you false signals. ★★★

Birthday Baby: You are full of energy and emotional. You say what's on your mind and are true to those you love. You fight for your rights and beliefs.

Eugenia's Web sites: astroadvice.com for fun, eugenialast.com for confidential consultations

WONDERWORD® By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

CAT BRUSHES Solution: 5 letters

C	R	G	E	D	G	T	E	S	S	E	R	A	C	L
C	O	A	R	S	E	N	E	P	M	S	L	O	O	T
N	T	M	L	O	A	S	I	N	A	E	D	O	M	T
O	A	H	B	L	O	B	I	D	D	H	S	L	F	R
I	C	I	T	I	E	M	I	G	D	E	S	S	O	O
T	I	D	R	E	N	R	I	P	N	A	R	T	R	H
O	L	E	L	A	E	A	G	N	E	L	P	I	T	S
M	P	P	A	©	N	T	T	I	G	T	S	F	E	M
F	P	P	T	©	I	I	P	I	E	H	T	F	L	A
P	A	I	E	®	K	D	R	L	O	S	O	I	T	L
I	O	T	M	®	S	Y	D	E	A	N	N	N	N	L
N	U	S	E	L	G	N	A	T	T	S	K	E	E	G
S	O	O	P	M	A	H	S	A	F	E	T	Y	G	N
T	O	U	C	H	A	I	R	A	K	E	V	I	R	O
R	Y	G	N	I	D	D	E	H	S	B	M	O	C	L

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Allergies, Applicator, Base, Caress, Coarse, Coat, Combination, Combs, Comfort, Design, Direction, Fine, Gentle, Grooming, Hair, Handle, Health, Hold, Knots, Long, Loosen, Mess, Metal, Motion, Padding, Petting, Pins, Plastic, Rake, Safety, Shampoo, Shape, Shedding, Short, Skin, Small, Stiff, Tangles, Teeth, Tender, Tidy, Tipped, Tools, Touch, Veterinarian

Yesterday's Answer: Popped

SALE: The topics of "Wonderword for Kids" appeal to younger fans but the puzzle difficulty matches what you've come to expect from Wonderword. For a limited time, the book is on sale for just \$4 each (U.S. funds only), payable to Universal Press Syndicate. Include postage for the best book order: \$11.99 to each additional book, sent to Wonderword, 1130 Walnut St., Kansas City, Mo. 64106 or call toll-free: 1-800-461-6460. Order online at wps.com.

Michael Vick released from federal custody



HAMPTON, Va. (AP)—Suspended NFL star Michael Vick ended his federal dogfighting sentence Monday, freeing him to lobby for a return to the field.

Vick's attorney Lawrence Woodward told The Associated Press outside Vick's suburban Virginia home that the former Atlanta Falcons quarterback had been released from federal custody as scheduled. That means Vick no longer has to wear the electronic monitor he's had while under home confinement for the last two months of his 23-month sentence.

Shortly before Woodward came out of the house, two men in a government car with a U.S. Probation Services folder on the dashboard paid a brief visit to the home. They carried a large case similar to the one that Vick's ankle monitor was delivered in when he started home confinement. The men declined to identify themselves or speak to waiting reporters.

Vick then drove to the federal courthouse in nearby Norfolk to meet federal probation officials to take care of paperwork. Vick declined to answer reporters' questions as he left the courthouse with Woodward about an hour and 45 minutes later.

Freedom will allow Vick to step up his efforts to resume his pro football career. Vick hopes to soon meet with NFL commissioner Roger Goodell, who has said he would review Vick's status after Vick completed his sentence.

Goodell has said he wants to sit down with Vick, but it's unclear when that face-to-face meeting will take place.

"The review of his status is ongoing, but we are providing no other details at this time," league spokesman Greg Aiello said Monday.

If Vick is able to return to the



Former Atlanta Falcon quarterback, Michael Vick, left, leaves federal court with his attorney Larry Woodward in Norfolk, Va., Monday, July 20, 2009.

NFL, it won't be with Atlanta. The Falcons released him in June.

"Michael did an egregious thing," Goodell told The Associated Press in April. "He has paid a very significant price for that."

He said people are forgiving when someone who has done wrong shows remorse and is prepared to live a different life.

"That's something he has to prove to myself and the general public," Goodell said.

Vick did not initially show enough remorse to satisfy U.S.

District Judge Henry Hudson. The 29-year-old player apologized in court in 2007, but Hudson denied him an "acceptance of responsibility" credit that could have reduced his sentence. He sentenced Vick to 23 months in prison—more than any of Vick's three co-defendants.

Under the federal truth-in-sentencing law, Vick had to serve at least 85 percent of his sentence. He served the first 18 months in the federal penitentiary in Leavenworth, Kan., before

being transferred to home confinement in May.

While on home confinement, Vick—once the NFL's highest-paid player—worked a \$10-an-hour construction job for a few weeks. He switched jobs last month, assisting in children's health and fitness programs at the Boys and Girls Clubs.

Vick will remain on probation for three years. He also is under a three-year suspended sentence for a state dogfighting conviction.

Contador eyes other Tour rivals and not Armstrong



SION, Switzerland (AP)—The tension with

Lance Armstrong is all but gone in the crisp mountain air and the line of authority is clear. Now, Alberto Contador wants to concentrate on those teams intent on seizing his Tour de France lead.

The Spaniard used Monday's rest day to lay out his plan of attack to keep the yellow jersey he won by capturing the first stage in the Alps a day earlier.

Contador, the 2007 Tour champion, said his lead over other contenders "looks good" so far, but cautioned: "It's not done yet, we still have a hard week left to go."

Armstrong, the seven-time champion who returned to the race after 3 1/2 years of retirement, is in second overall—1 minute, 37 seconds behind his Astana teammate.

The 37-year-old Texan has conceded that his chances of victory on the Champs-Elysees in Paris on Sunday are slim. He pledged to be a faithful support rider for Contador.

"Yesterday, he gave me his support, and I believe him," Contador told a news conference at a team hotel in the Swiss town of Sion, near the start of Tuesday's 16th stage in Martigny.

On his Twitter page Monday, Armstrong wrote: "Just finished a easy ride on rest day (No.) 2. Beautiful here in Sion, Switzerland. Lots of vines."

Armstrong wasn't speaking to reporters Monday, Astana spokesman Philippe Maertens said. But a week earlier, after the two riders leapfrogged each other in the standings, Armstrong referred to "tension" within the team.

That's all but vanished now. "We have come down a lot from the level of tension, both at the (team) dinner table and on

the course," Contador said.

He said his top concern in the punishing final week is Andy Schleck of Luxembourg, a strong climber who is 2:26 behind in fifth place.

Bradley Wiggins of Britain, a strong time-trial rider who has proved his ability to climb at this Tour, is third and 1:46 back. Contador said Wiggins will be "dangerous" in Thursday's time trial in Annecy.

"I still have a small gap with him, (and) he's one of my biggest competitors now," the Spaniard said. "So maybe I'll try to take some more time on him beforehand. We'll see."

Astana's Andreas Kloeckner of Germany is fourth, meaning Contador is counting on two teammates in the top five to help him to retain the jersey. But Contador won't wait to be attacked.

"I would sleep better if the gap was bigger," he said. "It all depends on how the stages develop. If I can take advantage of some situations, I'll do it."

Tuesday's 99-mile stage from Martigny, Switzerland to Bourg-Saint-Maurice, France, marks the second of three Alpine rides this year. It features the Grand-Saint-Bernard and Petit-Saint-Bernard passes, each about 14 miles.

Then, Contador expects Wednesday's 17th stage to be the week's toughest. The course takes riders up five climbs, including the super-steep Colombiere and Romme passes.

Friday marks a relatively flat stage before the race climax this year—an uphill finish at Mont Ventoux, which Armstrong has called the hardest climb in France—on the next-to-last day.

Contador knows he'll need to be on guard, and in form.

"You can always have a bad day in cycling, then the others will attack," he said. "But it's my job not to let it happen."

Agent: Steve Nash agrees to 2-year extension



PHOENIX (AP)—Steve Nash and the Phoenix Suns have agreed on a two-year, \$22 million contract extension, his agent said.

Bill Duffy confirmed the agreement Monday in an interview with The Associated Press.

The deal will keep the two-time MVP point guard under contract with the Suns through the 2011-2012 season.

The 35-year-old Nash, entering his 13th NBA season, had one year left on his contract that would pay him \$13 million next season.

The agreement first was reported by ESPN.

The Suns and Nash had been in negotiations for several weeks on a deal that would keep him in Phoenix. He will be 38 when the contract expires. He is expected to sign the agreement later this week.

Under the agreement, \$6 million of the final two years of the contract will be deferred, with \$3 million being paid in each of the two years following the expiration of the contract, Duffy said.

The deal was pushed closer to completion last Wednesday when owner Robert Sarver met with Duffy in Las Vegas to sweeten the team's earlier offer.

The Suns lured Nash to Phoenix in 2004 in a celebrated effort that included a flight to Dallas by then-owner Jerry Colangelo and a host of representatives of the team. When Mavericks owner Mark Cuban balked at re-signing Nash, at age 30, at the amount he wanted, the point guard signed a five-year, \$65 million contract with Phoenix.

What followed were the best years of Nash's career as the maestro of the high-octane offense of then-coach Mike D'Antoni. He was named the league's MVP in 2005 and 2006

and was a first-team all-NBA selection in 2005, 2006 and 2007.

When D'Antoni left the Suns for the New York Knicks after the 2007-08 season, Nash struggled with the slower style of new coach Terry Porter. When Porter was fired at the All-Star break and replaced by assistant Alvin Gentry, the Suns returned to the speed game, a factor that no doubt figured into Nash's decision to re-sign.

When Gentry was kept on as coach after the season, Nash made his feelings known on his Twitter account.

"Really happy that the Suns re-signed Alvin Gentry," Nash wrote. "Great coach and great person."

Nash will stay with a team that faces an uncertain future after failing to make the playoffs for the first time since he re-joined the team. All-Star Amare Stoudemire has one year left on his contract and wants the maxi-

mum in any new deal, something the budget-conscious Suns may not be willing to do.

Nash had to be convinced the team was willing to take steps to become a contender again, Duffy said. He said the team has assured Nash he will be consulted as the Suns make future moves, the agent said.

If Stoudemire does leave, the Suns will have the money to be a player in the lucrative free agent market after the coming season.

Nash, born in South Africa and raised in Victoria, British Columbia, was the Suns' first-round draft pick in 1996 and was traded to Dallas in 1998. He has averaged 14.4 points and eight assists in his pro career.

In the last five years with Phoenix, Nash has averaged 17.1 points and 10.8 assists per game. He has shot better than 50 percent from the field and 43 percent from 3-point range in all five seasons.

NBA BRIEFS

Timberwolves, Clippers swing 4-player deal

MINNEAPOLIS (AP)—Minnesota Timberwolves forward Mark Madsen says he has been traded along with Sebastian Telfair and Craig Smith to the Los Angeles Clippers for Quentin Richardson. Madsen says he spoke to his agent on Monday to confirm the deal, which was first reported by YahooSports.com. Madsen spent six seasons in Minnesota. His playing time waned as his career progressed, but he remained a valued leader in the locker room. Smith was a capable scorer off the bench for the Wolves, but the power forward had trouble getting consistent playing time behind Al Jefferson and Kevin Love. Richardson averaged 10.2 points and 4.4 rebounds last season.

Bulls waive Roberson

CHICAGO (AP)—The Chicago Bulls have waived backup guard Anthony Roberson. Acquired from the New York Knicks in February, Roberson appeared in just six games with the Bulls and averaged 2.0 points. He has averaged 4.1 points in three seasons, including stops with Memphis and Golden State.

Pacers release Jack

INDIANAPOLIS (AP)—The Pacers are not bringing back guard Jarrett Jack. The Pacers said Monday that they will not match the offer sheet Toronto issued to Jack, a restricted free agent. Pacers President Larry Bird says it was a difficult decision. Jack was acquired by the Pacers in a five-player trade a year ago. In his one season with the Pacers, Jack played in all 82 games, averaging a career-high 13.1 points.

Phillies beat Cubs 10-1, win ninth straight



**PHILA-
DEL-
PHIA**
(AP) —

Raul Ibanez hit a three-run homer, Carlos Ruiz and Ryan Howard both went deep as Philadelphia won its ninth straight game, 10-1 over Chicago in the National League on Monday.

Ruiz had an RBI double during a four-run fourth inning for the NL East leaders.

Rodrigo Lopez (2-0) allowed one run over six innings to give the Phillies their 13th win in their last 14 games.

The Phillies are on their longest winning streak since 2006 and improved to 23-23 at home. They were 13-22 at home before they went 9-1 in their last homestand.

Ted Lilly (9-7) gave up nine runs and eight hits in four innings, his shortest outing of the season for the Cubs, who had a four-game winning streak snapped.

Ibanez moved into second place in the NL with his 25th homer, and Howard is right behind him with 24. Howard's solo shot in the eighth made it 10-1.

Braves 11 Giants 3

At Atlanta, Tommy Hanson struck out 11 batters to remain unbeaten and Chipper Jones hit a two-run homer as Atlanta beat Jonathan Sanchez in his first start since his no-hitter.

Matt Diaz had a tiebreaking two-run triple in Atlanta's six-run seventh inning, helping the Braves snap a five-game skid against San Francisco and Hanson improve to 5-0. Atlanta has won four of five and six of eight overall.

Sanchez gave up three runs and four hits and struck out eight over six innings in his first game since his gem against San Diego on July 10.

Sergio Romo (2-1) replaced Sanchez and failed to record an out, allowing four runs and four hits. Casey Kotchman had an RBI single after Diaz's hit and pinch-hitter Ryan Church greeted Justin Miller with a two-run homer. Brian McCann added a run-scoring single.

Mets 6, Nationals 2

At Washington, Livan Hernandez threw seven solid innings and Jeff Francoeur hit his first homer with New York as the Mets downed Washington.

Francoeur finished with three hits and two RBIs for the injury-riddled Mets, who scored five runs in the first two innings.

Hernandez (6-5) allowed two runs and five hits to end a four-game losing streak and earn his first win since June 7 at Washington. He improved to 8-1 with a 2.74 ERA against the Nationals in his career.

Washington has lost six straight to lower its major league-worst record to 26-66 and is 0-5 since Jim Riggle-

man became interim manager a week ago.

Rockies 10, Diamondbacks 6

At Denver, Jorge De La Rosa pitched seven strong innings in his fifth straight win and drove in two runs, while Dexter Fowler and Chris Iannetta homered for Colorado.

Every Colorado starter except Brad Hawpe had at least one hit, and the Rockies scored at least one run in each of the first five innings.

With the win and San Francisco's loss to Atlanta, the Rockies moved into the NL wild card lead, one-half game ahead of the Giants.

Mark Reynolds and Stephen Drew homered for the Diamondbacks.

De La Rosa (7-7), who started the season 0-6, is 7-1 since May 31. He gave up one run and four hits, struck out six and walked one. He had a career-high two hits and two RBIs.

Astros 3, Cardinals 2

At Houston, Carlos Lee's three-run homer lifted Houston past Arizona.

The Astros were trailing 2-0 when Lee followed Miguel Tejada's single and a walk by Lance Berkman in the fourth inning.

Brian Moehler (7-5) allowed six hits and two runs with five strikeouts in 6 1-3 innings to improve his career record against the Cardinals to 5-0.

LaTroy Hawkins gave up two hits in the eighth before closer Jose Valverde pitched a scoreless ninth for his 10th save.

Yadier Molina singled in two runs in the fourth to put St. Louis ahead 2-0.

Berkman had a double and scored a run in his return to the lineup after missing three games with a left calf strain.

Pirates 8, Brewers 5

At Pittsburgh, Delwyn Young and Garrett Jones homered to help Pittsburgh end a 17-game losing streak against Milwaukee.

Andrew McCutchen had three hits and scored two runs for Pittsburgh, which snapped the major's longest losing streak against an opponent in 39 years. The Baltimore Orioles won 23 straight against the Kansas City Royals from 1969-70.

Felipe Lopez went 4 for 4 in his Milwaukee debut and Ryan Braun hit a two-run homer in the Brewers' three-run ninth. Lopez was acquired from the Arizona Diamondbacks on Sunday.

Milwaukee committed three errors in their third loss in four games.

Russ Ohlendorf (8-7) allowed two runs and seven hits in five innings to get the win.



Philadelphia Phillies' Ryan Howard, left, celebrates with Raul Ibanez (29) after Howard hit a solo home run against the Chicago Cubs in the eighth inning of a baseball game Monday, July 20, 2009, in Philadelphia.

Dodgers 7, Reds 5

At Los Angeles, Manny Ramirez hit his 537th home run to pass Mickey Mantle into 15th place on the all-time list, Jason Schmidt won his first major league start in more than two years, and Los Angeles beat Cincinnati.

Ramirez, who tied Mantle on July 10, homered off Micah Owings (6-10) in the second inning to give Los Angeles a 6-3 lead. The Dodger Stadium crowd of 48,110 chanted his first name in unison, hoping for a curtain call that never came.

Making just his seventh start for the Dodgers since signing a three-year, \$47 million contract in December 2006, Schmidt (1-0) threw 91 pitches over five innings and allowed three runs and five hits.

Jonathan Broxton pitched a perfect ninth for his 23rd save.

Marlins 3, Padres 2

At San Diego, Florida's Rick VandenHurk pitched six strong innings to earn his first win in more than a year.

VandenHurk, making his first start since last July, allowed two runs and five hits, struck out four and walked two. He picked up his first victory since he pitched five innings in a 4-0 victory over Atlanta on June 22, 2008.

Hanley Ramirez homered for the Marlins, who put together a two-run rally in the seventh to snap a three-game skid. Leo Nunez pitched the ninth for his fifth save and completed the five-hitter.

San Diego has lost 15 of 19 and has the majors' worst record since June 1 (12-31).

VandenHurk (1-0) allowed three hits before he giving up back-to-back homers to Adrian Gonzalez and Kevin Kouzmanoff in the sixth, giving San

Diego a 2-1 lead.

Gonzalez's drive was his 25th of the season and first in 24 games. The All-Star first baseman has hit only three homers since June 2.

Athletics 14, Twins 13

At Oakland, California, Matt Holliday hit a tying grand slam in the seventh inning and Jack Cust followed with another homer to help the Oakland Athletics rally from a 10-run deficit to beat the Minnesota Twins.

Holliday also had a two-run homer in the largest comeback in Oakland history.

Craig Breslow (3-4) got the win and Michael Wuerz finished the 3-hour, 32-minute game for his third save in four chances.

The game ended when Michael Cuddyer was thrown out trying to score from second on Wuerz's wild pitch. Cuddyer appeared to be safe and Twins manager Ron Gardenhire stepped between him and plate umpire Mike Muchlinski as the outfielder argued the call. Cuddyer slammed his helmet down.

Justin Morneau hit his second grand slam this season and a three-run homer for a career-high seven RBIs, but the Twins couldn't hold a 12-2 lead and matched their biggest collapse ever.

Holliday connected for his fourth career slam off Jose Mijares (0-2) and had his 12th career multihomer game.

Morneau hit his sixth career slam in the second to make it 8-2.

Yankees 2, Orioles 1

At New York, Hideki Matsui homered off Jim Johnson in the ninth inning to give the streaking New York Yankees a victory over Baltimore.

Matsui's home run off Johnson (3-4) extended the Yankees' winning streak to four since the All-Star break. Matsui's only other game-ending homer in the majors was July 17, 2003, against Cleveland's David Riske.

New York (55-37), which moved into a first-place tie with Boston in the AL East, moved 18 games over .500 for first time since the end of 2007 season (94-68) with its third consecutive 2-1 win. The Yankees have won eight straight home games against the Orioles.

Baltimore dropped to 1-12 on the road this year against AL East and has lost 25 of last 27 road games against division rivals dating to last July.

Nick Markakis hit a first-inning homer off Andy Pettitte, and Eric Hinske's second-inning homer against David Hernandez tied it.

Rangers 6, Red Sox 3

At Arlington, Texas, David Murphy and Jarrod Saltalamacchia of Texas homered on consecutive pitches in the same inning that Michael Young led off with a long ball as Texas downed Boston.

The Red Sox have lost three straight, scoring only six runs in those games.

Kevin Millwood (9-7) left trailing 2-1 after six innings. The Rangers hit three homers off John Smoltz (1-3) in the bottom of the sixth.

Smoltz, making his fifth start since shoulder surgery last summer, hadn't allowed a home run in 25 innings this season until Young's leadoff homer tied the game 2-2.

Murphy put Texas ahead to stay with his two-run shot. Saltalamacchia hit the next pitch and Smoltz was done.

Smoltz hadn't allowed three homers in a game since June 8, 1997, while pitching for Atlanta. It was only the second time in his 21-year career to give up three homers in an inning.

White Sox 4, Rays 3

At Chicago, Paul Konerko hit a three-run homer to back a solid start by Chicago's Gavin Floyd in a win over Tampa Bay.

The Rays threatened in the eighth but did not score and loaded the bases with two outs in the ninth against Bobby Jenks before Jason Bartlett struck out to end the game.

Scott Podsednik had three hits and scored twice, but Konerko's 18th homer was the difference as the White Sox won for the 13th time in 19 games. His homer in the third gave the White Sox a 4-1 lead.

Floyd (8-6) went seven innings to improve to 6-2 in his last 11 starts. He gave up three hits—all homers. Ben Zobrist and Evan Longoria went deep and Carl Crawford had an inside-the-park homer.

Steinbrenner: Yankees can win title

NEW YORK (AP)—Hal Steinbrenner was direct and to the point, much as his famous father always was.

"I think we've got a championship-caliber team," he said. "I absolutely believe that we have the team that can win the championship."

Making his first extensive public comments about the New York Yankees since opening day, the new controlling owner praised his players, manager Joe Girardi and general manager Brian Cashman. And, already, he's looking ahead to Aug. 6-9, when the Boston Red Sox come to Yankee Stadium.

"That four-game series is going to be a big one," he said. "But the guys believe they can beat anybody, and that has not changed, and that's an important thing."

Boston, tied with New York for the AL East lead, is 8-0 against the Yankees this year, the best Red Sox start to a season against their rival since winning the first 14 meetings against the Highlanders in 1912.

Steinbrenner met with Girardi before Monday night's game against Baltimore. Especially after failing to make the playoffs last year in the first season of a three-year contract, Girardi understands what is required.

"I know the expectations. I knew it when I took the job in year one," he said. "I knew it coming into this year, and, you know, for however long I manage. Expectations are going to be on the next guy too. It's never going to change."

Steinbrenner wouldn't say what would happen if the Yankees don't make it to the postseason yet again following their run of 13 consecutive playoff appearances. He also left little to the imagination.

"We expect to win every year. We've said that. We always say that," he said. "Our job is to field a championship-caliber team every year, and that's what we strive to do. So, Joe knows who he's working for."

Steinbrenner sounded pleased with his team's offseason moves, saying the newcomers were "a breath of fresh air." The Yankees signed free-agent pitchers CC Sabathia and A.J. Burnett and first baseman Mark Teixeira, and acquired right fielder Nick Swisher in a trade.

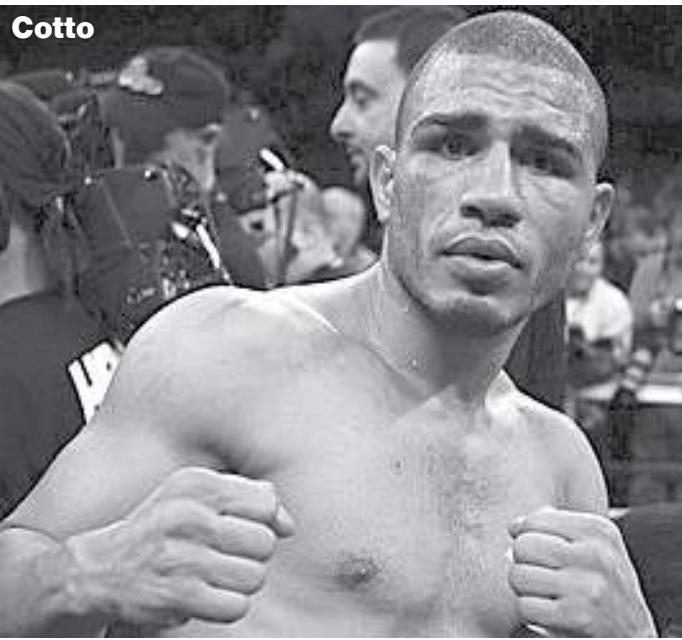
Cotto-Pacquiao bout set for November

By GREG BEACHAM
AP SPORTS WRITER

BOXING Miguel Cotto is next on Manny Pacquiao's hit list for what's likely to be the biggest fight of the fall.

Pacquiao and Cotto will meet Nov. 14 at the MGM Grand Garden in Las Vegas, Top Rank promoter Bob Arum said Monday after finalizing the match between his company's two most prominent boxers. The 145-pound bout will be shown on HBO pay-per-view.

"There's no messing about with either of these guys, and



that's what's so exciting," Arum told The Associated Press. "That's why it's an unbelievable fight, with two guys who really love to fight and don't dance around."

Pacquiao (49-3-2, 37 KOs) has won titles in six weight divisions from 112 to 140 pounds, cementing the Filipino national hero's status as the sport's pound-for-pound champion. Pacquiao pummeled Oscar De La Hoya into retirement last December in his first welterweight fight, and he dramatically stopped 140-pound champion Ricky Hatton in the second round in May for his 10th consecutive victory.

Pacquiao also attended Cotto's brutal split-decision victory over Joshua Clottey in New York last June, building anticipation for their meeting. Both fighters were eager to face each other, making the negotiations relatively simple after Pacquiao agreed to the 145-pound weight limit insisted upon by Cotto's physical trainer.

"With Manny, you don't tell him who to fight," Arum said. "He tells you who he wants to fight. He's not afraid of anything. There's a lot of easier guys he could fight, but he doesn't want that. He wants the best, and that's Miguel."

Cotto (34-1, 27 KOs) rebounded from his only loss

to Antonio Margarito last summer by stopping Michael Jennings to claim the WBO welterweight title in February. Cotto, Puerto Rico's most popular fighter, has fought in Las Vegas just once since December 2004, preferring to appear before his biggest fans in New York or Atlantic City.

Cotto's 11th-round stoppage loss to Margarito was his only previous main-event fight in Las Vegas, but Margarito's suspension for illegal hand wraps at his next fight against Sugar Shane Mosley put the legitimacy of Margarito's victory over Cotto into question.

Tickets for Pacquiao-Cotto will go on sale in August.

MBI

From Page 28

midway in the fourth period.

Game 2 was like a deliberate boxing bout for MBI, as it went for jabs in the first three quarters before going for the knockout punches in the final canto.

The Kitz Barja-mentored squad kept Advance within striking distance in the first period, as the X-Terminators led by only a deuce, 16-14.

MBI then grabbed the upper-hand at halftime, 37-34, and increased the lead to seven at the

end of the third period, 58-51.

In the payoff canto, things started to fall part for Advance, which can't get its potent fast-break game going. In contrast, MBI was successful on its selected fastbreak plays and consistent halfcourt set.

Don Sese scored eight of MBI's first 10 points in the fourth period, giving the team a double-digit lead, 68-57, with 7:08 left in the game.

Advance tried to recover, but failed, as Sese and company managed to neutralize Mike Olaitiman, who was scoreless in the fourth period. Olaitiman's

faint offensive game rubbed off his teammates and things turned from bad to worse for Advance when Rocyl Ritual left the game after a bad fall with three minutes remaining in the fourth. Ritual went for a layup and made the basket, but collided with two MBI defenders on his way down.

Earlier, Ritual made a jumper and Rodel Apostol canned a pair of free throws for a quick 4-0 swing for Advance, moving the X-Terminators within eight, 63-71, with less than six minutes left in the game.

However, Alvin Alvarez, who stepped up big time in Game 2,

came up with back-to-back inside baskets to widen the gap, again, 75-63, with 5:01 remaining on the clock.

Advance failed to bring the lead down to a single-digit from there on on, as Olaitiman continued to have a nightmare in the fourth quarter, while MBI delivered the killer blows in the last four minutes of the match after knocking in free throws and easy layups.

The X-Terminators then threw in the towel in the 1:47 mark of the fourth period when they began pulling out their starters, allowing MBI to pad the lead to as much as 22 points, 87-65.

Ryan Cabrera top-scored for MBI in Game 2 and played his best game in the league after firing 22 points. Sese chipped in 21, Alvarez finished with 15, and R.J. Nonato contributed 11.

Art Trajano, who had 10 points in Game 1, made only eight, but collected eight blocks, as he was solidly a big threat defensively for MBI. Trajano also had eight shotblocks in Game 1 and collared 13 boards.

Ritual led Advance's losing cause, nailing 26 points, while Juhani Daprosa chipped in 14, but he and other X-Terminators' baskets came sparingly.

Olaitiman, who averaged more than 20 points per game and had 23 in Game 1, was held to 12 points. He was repeatedly frustrated by the defense of Sese, Cabrera, and Nonato and uncharacteristically muffed fastbreak layups.

MBI 89—Cabrera 22, Sese 21, Alvarez 15, Nonato 11, Trajano 8, Barbo 6, Barja 2, Achas 2.

Advance 70—Ritual 26, Daprosa 14, Olaitiman 12, Apostol 8, Capillan 3, Adlawan 2, Gozon 2, Relata 2, Luna 1.

Scoring by quarters: 14-16, 37-34, 58-51, 89-70.

STA. REMEDIO

From Page 28

were Angel Barcenilla, William Sablan, and Alex Corpuz.

Victoria, captained by Benny Iriarte with Diego, Ronald and Vicky Benavente, Eddie Iriarte, and Sheldon Fernandez as anglers, had their turn in 2001 after catching 338.19-lb. marlin.

A 453.71-lb.marlin gave the Felix Ayuyu-captained *Nelida*

the grand prize in 2002, while captain Mike Fleming's *Bunita* notched the perpetual plum in 2003 via its 280-lb. catch.

Charlie Cat made it back-to-back with captain Hoa Van Nguyen and crew reeling a 519.40-lb. marlin in 2004 and captain Quang-Ly and his anglers catching a 422.40-lb. marlin in 2005.

Victoria, with Diego Benavente this time as captain, also got its second perpetual

trophy after a 337.74-lb. catch in 2006.

Joining *Victoria* and *Charlie Cat* in the list of boats that won the perpetual trophy twice was *Cabo Express* of captain Heinz Hofschneider. *Cabo Express* won in 2007 after getting 288.30-lb. marlin and made it back-to-back in 2008, as it caught a heavier one that tipped the scale at 474 lbs.

Sta. Remedio claimed the grand prize this year after land-

ing a 319.5-lbs Pacific blue marlin last Saturday.

"It is a great honor to belong to this group. We are very happy to win the grand prize," Antonio Camacho said. "It was the heaviest fish I caught in my more than 20 years of fishing."

Besides the perpetual trophy, *Sta. Remedio* also took home \$3,000.

The Top 3 placers in other categories (skipjack and yellow fin tuna, billfish, wahoo,

and mahi-mahi) were also awarded with cash prizes and wooden trophies, while *Senor Dung* of Rota got the Mobil Cup given to total weight winner.

Cabo Express won in the billfish category, while *Nombei* topped the yellowfin division, *Padre De Familia* ruled the wahoo category, *Tweety Bird* prevailed in the mahi-mahi, and *Botin Saba* notched the skipjack.

MOTHER

From Page 28

panta recovered a bit in Game 3 with his 171 pinfalls and improved on his last game, recording 195 pinfalls for an average of 182.75.

McKenzie had a good showing in the first two games, nailing 171 and 166 pinfalls in Games 1 and 2, respectively, but tallied only 157 and 151 in Games 3 and 4 to fail in his bid to end Zapanta's reign in the monthly tournament.

After posting 98 pinfalls in Game 1, Verdaguer picked up his scoring in the next three games, but still it was not enough to give him the monthly plum.

A day after Raphael Zapanta won the July roll-off, his mother, Gigi, took the women's title in the Budweiser King/Queen of the Lanes Tournament.

Gigi joined in the first roll-off last Sunday, but collected only 654 pinfalls and finished second to Day 1 leader Lala Taitano (710).

Gigi then returned for the Monday roll-off and eclipsed his Day

1 mark and Taitano's, too, as the former registered 715 pinfalls.

A 172-pinfall performance in Game 1 gave Gigi the much-needed boost to steal the win from Taitano. She played her best game in Game 3, making 192 pinfalls and had 165 and 186 pinfalls in Games 2 and 4 for an average of 178.75 pinfalls.

Taitano dropped to second with her average of 177.70, while Carol McKenzie moved up from eighth to third place with an average of 168.25 pinfalls and a four-game total of 673.

Simon Manacop foiled a Za-

panta three-peat, as he edged Raymond in the King of the Lanes division.

Manacop earned 867 pinfalls in four games for an average of 216.77 pinfalls, besting Raymond, who recorded the second and third best scores in the July roll-offs.

In Day 1, Raymond tallied 859 pinfalls to finish second behind Manacop and the former faltered in his bid to unseat the latter from the No. 1 spot after coming up with only 850 pinfalls in Day 2.

Tony Verdaguer (786 pinfalls) and Efren Cacdac (770)

completed the Top 5.

Manacop scored more than 200 pinfalls in the first three games, 234, 229, and 220 to gain cushion before closing out with 184 in Game 4.

Raymond also put on a strong showing in the first three games. His bets game came in Game 3 (242 pinfalls), but he had only 216 pinfalls in Game 1 and 213 in Game 2 to fell behind by 12 pinfalls against Manacop, 671-683. Raymond outscored Manacop in Game 4, 188-84, but still failed to dislodge Manacop from the No. 1 spot.

and referee clinics.

Organizers are also reminding teams to pay the \$100 entrance fee on or before the kick off date.

The entrance fee for the inter-government/business league is \$400 and must be paid, too on or before the league starts.

For more information on both leagues, contact Elias Rangamar or Ponce Rasa at 664-2502 or 664-2503.

ing will see action in the Rotary caging, as most of them are already over the age limit. With this development, the championship will be an open race among the Sonics, Sixers, Saints, and a few other teams.

Another league set to kick off next month is the 2009 IT&E Inter-Government/Business Basketball League.

Host IT&E (PTI before) won the inaugural inter-government/

business caging after downing Autonomous in Game 1, 80-70.

The winning team was composed of Kelvin Fitial, Elmer Esdrelon, Edsel Mendoza, Ryan Sanciango, Junior Renguul and Bruce Berline. They defeated the Ed Diaz and Ponce Rasa-led Autonomous.

Mandatory meeting tomorrow

Organizers of both leagues are

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	55	37	.598	—
New York	55	37	.598	—
Tampa Bay	51	42	.548	4 1/2
Toronto	46	47	.495	9 1/2
Baltimore	41	51	.446	14

Central Division

Detroit	48	42	.533	—
Chicago	48	44	.522	1
Minnesota	47	46	.505	2 1/2
Kansas City	37	54	.407	11 1/2
Cleveland	36	57	.387	13 1/2

West Division

Los Angeles	52	38	.578	—
Texas	50	41	.549	2 1/2
Seattle	49	43	.533	4
Oakland	39	52	.429	13 1/2

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division	W	L	Pct	GB
Philadelphia	52	38	.578	—
Atlanta	47	46	.505	6 1/2
Florida	47	47	.500	7
New York	44	48	.478	9
Washington	26	66	.283	27

Central Division

St. Louis	51	44	.537	—
Chicago	47	44	.516	2
Houston	47	46	.505	3
Milwaukee	47	46	.505	3
Cincinnati	44	48	.478	5 1/2
Pittsburgh	41	51	.446	8 1/2

West Division

Los Angeles	59	34	.634	—
Colorado	51	42	.548	8
San Francisco	50	42	.543	8 1/2
Arizona	39	54	.419	20
San Diego	37	56	.398	22

Yesterday's Games

Philadelphia 10, Chicago Cubs 1
Pittsburgh 8, Milwaukee 5
N.Y. Mets 6, Washington 2
Atlanta 11, San Francisco 3
Houston 3, St. Louis 2
Colorado 10, Arizona 6
Florida 3, San Diego 2
L.A. Dodgers 7, Cincinnati 5
N.Y. Yankees 2, Baltimore 1
Texas 6, Boston 3
L.A. Angels at Kansas City, ppd., rain
Chicago White Sox 4, Tampa Bay 3
Oakland 14, Minnesota 13

By The Associated Press

25th Annual Saipan International Fishing Tournament

PHOTOS By ROSELYN B. MONROYO



Joe Muna of *Sienna Jade* holds the skipjack tuna during the weigh-in last Saturday at the Smiling Cove Marina's weighing station.



Felix Sasamoto helps in loading the 319.5-lb. marlin catch of *Sta. Remedio* to the truck.



An angler of *CM-622-PU* poses with a 29.75-lb. wahoo, which was the second heaviest catch in that category.



Split Decision angler Kerry Cutting of Guam shows the 7.8-lb. yellowfin they caught in Day 1.



A young boy touches the grand prize-winning 319.5-lb. marlin catch of *Sta. Remedio* during Day 1 of the 25th Annual Saipan International Fishing Tournament last Saturday.



Three kids curiously look at the head part of the 319.5-lb. marlin catch of *Sta. Remedio*.



Jovie Omar poses with *Cabo Express*' 224-lb. Pacific blue marlin.



Anglers of *Senor Dung* bring one of the two blue marlins they caught in the first day of the tournament to the weighing station.



Marianas Apnea Spearfishing Club president Morito Asai assists organizers in weighing a yellowfin tuna.



Ex-NFL star Vick released from federal custody

Suspended NFL star Michael Vick ended his federal dog-fighting sentence Monday, freeing him to lobby for a return to the field. **24**

Saipan Tribune Sports

Cotto-Pacquiao bout set for November

Pacquiao and Cotto will meet Nov. 14 at the MGM Grand Garden in Las Vegas, Top Rank promoter Bob Arum said Monday after finalizing the match between his company's two most prominent boxers. **26**



28 WEDNESDAY, JULY 22, 2009

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

MBI rules Shirley's caging

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Micronesian Brokers, Inc. swept its way to the championship of the 2009 Inaugural Shirley's Coffee Shop Invitational Basketball League after crushing Advance in Game 2 of their best-of-three title series, 89-70, last Monday at the JP Center Basketball Court.



While MBI had to wait for the final shot before taking Game 1, 74-71, the newly crowned champion claimed Game 2 with ease, sealing the title as early as

See MBI on Page 26

Members of the Micronesian Brokers, Inc. pose with their championship trophy after beating Advance in the finals of the 2009 Inaugural Shirley's Coffee Shop Invitational Basketball League last Monday at the JP Center Basketball Court.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO



Rotary, Inter-Govt/Biz leagues eye opening next month

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER



Basketball action will return to the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium next month, as two basketball leagues are scheduled to kick off their competition in August.

The 2009 Saipan Rotary Club Youth Basketball League has tentatively set its opening day on Aug. 12 with organizers Division of Sports and Recreation hoping to get eight teams.

The Rotary caging is for 18-and-under players.

The CNMI Junior Nationals won the last two editions of the youth caging with the Rufino Aguon-mentored squad beating the Sonics in 2007 and Rollers 1 in 2008.

The CNMI cagers competed in the Rotary caging to prepare for two

See ROTARY on Page 26

Sta. Remedio joins elite group in fishing derby



By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER



Sta. Remedio had its name engraved in the perpetual trophy given to the grand prize winner of the Annual Saipan International Fishing Tournament after ruling the 25th edition of the fishing derby over the weekend.

Sta. Remedio captain Antonio Omar Camacho was presented with a replica of the six-foot tall trophy during the awards banquet at the Hyatt Regency Saipan Monday night. Anglers Anthony Camacho, Melvin Aldan, and Damian Pua were also present to receive the grand prize trophy and watch in awe the giant perpetual trophy and the names of the boats written on it.

Sta. Remedio was only the seventh boat to win the perpetual trophy since it was first given in 2000.

The first six boats to claim the perpetual trophy were *Sea Angel* (2000), *Victoria* (2001 and 2006), *Nelida* (2002), *Bunita* (2003), *Charlie Cat* (2004 and 2005), and *Cabo Express* (2007 and 2008).

The Roland Barcennila-captained *Sea Angel* took the inaugural perpetual trophy after landing a 329.81-lb. marlin in 2000. *Sea Angels* anglers

See STA. REMEDIO on Page 26

Sta. Remedio anglers celebrate their grand prize win in the 25th Annual Saipan International Fishing Tournament during the awards banquet Monday night at the Hyatt Regency Saipan.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Mother and son win in July roll-offs

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER



Raphael Zapanta extended his winning run in the monthly Fiji Water Prince/Princess of the Lanes to seven after topping the July roll-off last Sunday at

the Saipan Bowling Center.

Zapanta totaled 731 pinfalls in four games to beat Marion McKenzie (645) and Troy Verdaguer (474).

The Saipan Southern High School student started strong with 209 pinfalls in Game 1 before slowing down in Game 2, knocking only 156 pins. Za-

See MOTHER on Page 26



July Queen of the Lanes Gigi Zapanta is flanked by runner-up Lala Taitano, right, and third placer Carol McKenzie, left.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



July Prince of the Lanes Raphael Zapanta is flanked by third placer Troy Verdaguer, left, and runner-up Marion McKenzie, right.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO